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NATIVE TIMES

Osage Congress votes to remove Chief

For the first time in its history, the Osage Nation has impeached an elected official.

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – On Jan. 21, the Osage Nation Congress voted to remove Principal Chief John D. Red Eagle on five of the six counts brought forward last year by a special Congressional committee.

“We’ve been called upon to be strong,” Congressman Kugee Supernaw said. “No one wanted this to happen. We had hoped it wouldn’t come to this. This is likely remembered as a defining moment in our history. This puts all current and future leaders on notice that they can’t pick and choose what laws to follow.” In accordance with the tribe’s removal policies, at

least 10 of the 12 members of Congress had to decide that there was “clear and convincing evidence” to vote for removal on an allegation. The five allegations deemed by Congress to have sufficient evidence include: — Interfering with an investigation of the Osage Nation Attorney General’s office on May 31, 2013, into potentially fraudulent

time sheets submitted by his grand-niece and adopted granddaughter, Macy Mashunkashey, over the course of six months. Mashunkashey has since resigned from her position with the Osage Nation’s substance abuse counseling program. — Attempting to have the aforementioned attorney general’s office investigation

terminated in an effort to give preferential treatment to Mashunkashey. Red Eagle admitted to calling the investigator over the case, Brian Herbert, to determine why the attorney general’s office was investigating the issue rather than the tribe’s human resources department, but denied



See OSAGE on Page 4 John Red Eagle

GETTING KICKED OUT



DON RYAN | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mia Prickett holds her Confederated Tribe of Grande Ronde enrollment card along with a recent notice of potential disenrollment from the tribe in Portland, Ore., Thursday. Prickett’s ancestor, Tumult, a leader of the Cascade Indians along the Columbia River, was one of the chiefs who signed an 1855 treaty that helped establish the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde in Oregon. But the Grand Ronde now wants to disenroll Prickett and 79 relatives because they no longer satisfy new enrollment requirements.

Disenrollment leaves many ‘culturally homeless’

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) – Mia Prickett’s ancestor was a leader of the Cascade Indians along the Columbia River and was one of the chiefs who signed an 1855 treaty that helped establish the Confederated

Tribes of the Grand Ronde in Oregon. But the Grand Ronde now wants to disenroll Prickett and 79 relatives, and possibly hundreds of other tribal members, because they no longer satisfy new enrollment requirements.

See DISENROLLMENT on Page 8

Barry Switzer among 3 named AICCM board

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Former Dallas Cowboys and University of Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer is among three members appointed to a board of directors of an agency overseeing the development of a Native American museum in Oklahoma City. Joining Switzer as new members to the Native

American Cultural and Educational Authority’s Board of Directors is Shawnee Tribe Chief Ron Sparkman and former Secretary of Commerce Bob Burke. The Native American Cultural and Educational Authority is a state agency created to develop the American Indian Cultural

Center and Museum. Once completed, the \$170 million American Indian Cultural Center and Museum will pay homage to the state’s nearly 40 Indian tribes. But it’s only half finished and far short of the money needed for completion. Some lawmakers have said they are reluctant to fund the facility.



NATIVE TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum’s website currently lists 2017 as the opening date for the facility.

Navajos recall long walk to voting rights

By RICHARD RUELAS
The Arizona Republic

PHOENIX (AP) – As a girl growing up on the Navajo Nation in the 1950s and ‘60s, LeNora Fulton remembers her parents making a major event out of voting. Her father would polish his boots. Her mother would put on jewelry. They would drive 50 miles to the polling place in Fort Defiance and make a day of it. “It was a social event as well,” said Fulton, 59. “It was something that was very special.” Those were the tribal elections, held at the chapter houses of each community. Fulton doesn’t think her mother and father ever registered to vote on



LeNora Fulton

county, state or federal matters. Fulton, who now is in charge of elections in Apache County, didn’t register herself until she was 30. Although voting was part of the Navajo culture, the significance of it didn’t extend to any elections not

on the reservation. Fulton can see, looking back, how this wasn’t by chance. Native Americans were barred from voting by court order until 1948. And once they were allowed, literacy tests and an English ballot kept participation rates low. It wasn’t until after the Voting Rights Act of 1965, legislation championed by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. aimed at ending discriminatory practices in the South that kept African-Americans from voting, that Navajos also started registering in significant numbers. Following that act, Apache County saw its first Native American county official elected and now reliably has representation in the Arizona Legislature and in city and

See VOTING on Page 3

Payments from Indian trust settlement on the way for some tribes

RIVERTON, Wyo. (AP) – The second set of payments stemming from a settlement between the federal government and Native American land trust beneficiaries is due to be distributed to members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes within a few weeks. Lori Castaneda, vice president of operations for The Garden City Group, which administers the settlement, tells The Riverton Ranger the minimum award

that class members will receive is estimated at \$800. The total award for the 6,728 members in the second set is more than \$10 million. Elouise Cobell was the lead plaintiff in the Indian Trust Settlement that aimed to bring justice for the trust funds, assets and tribal land mishandled by the federal government. In 2010, President Obama signed off on the distribution of \$3.4 billion for tribes across the United States.





PHOTO BY BOB AND DIANE HUDGENS SOUTHWEST PHOTOGRAPHY, DEMING, N.M.
The Fort Sill Apache Tribe has placed land purchased in New Mexico into trust and established a business presence. While the casino portion is not in operation, the Akela Flats restaurant and smoke shop remains open pending Compact negotiations with New Mexico.

Fort Sill Apache still awaiting word on NM gaming

By DIANA ALBA SOULAR
Las Cruces Sun-News

AKELA FLATS, N.M. (AP) – It’s been nearly five years since the Fort Sill Apache tribe sparked a dramatic showdown with state authorities when it attempted, unsuccessfully, to launch slot-machine-like bingo on a plot of land part way between Las Cruces and Deming.

From a 12,000-square-foot building, the Oklahoma-based tribe is still running a smoke shop and a small cafe, serving soft drinks and sandwiches to Interstate 10 travelers and local residents who drop by.

Despite setbacks, tribal members still have aspirations to carry out gaming on the 30-acre parcel, said Fort Sill Apache Chairman Jeff Haozous, who visited the site recently. That’s part of what they say is a larger plan to re-establish the tribe’s presence in southern New Mexico -- a region from which their ancestors were removed in the late 1800s as prisoners of war.

The tribe had poured its energies in recent years into applying for the right to game via a two-part test

that requires approval from both the U.S. Department of the Interior and a state’s governor. That’s one of the exemptions to a federal gaming law that otherwise prohibits gaming on tribal lands acquired after 1988. The Fort Sill Apache tribe gained federal “trust” status for its Akela land in 2002.

Haozous said the tribe went for the two-part test route after a letter from the Martinez administration in 2011 to the National Indian Gaming Commission, a federal regulatory board, suggested it as a possibility. The tribe was hopeful about Martinez’s stance on the casino project, especially in light of the rocky relationship it had with former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who left office at the end of 2010.

But Haozous said the tribe began picking up indications around March 2013 that the governor didn’t support the casino plan, based on remarks Martinez made on a Deming radio program.

“That led us to believe it was not fruitful,” he said of the two-part route.

In an April 2013 meeting with federal officials and an attorney for the Martinez

administration, Haozous said the tribe was handed a clearer message: “The attorney said: “The governor does not support this project.”

That, as well as what Haozous said was a more-recent rejection by the Martinez administration of the tribe’s requests for equal standing among New Mexico tribes, is prompting the tribe to look once again to an earlier route that revolves around a case pending before the gaming commission.

The case stems from the Fort Sill Apache tribe launching paper bingo games at the Akela location in April 2009. The tribe had argued it had the legal grounds to host bingo, based on another exemption outlined in federal law.

That was followed up with an order from the Washington, D.C.-based NIGC chairman, who issued a notice of violation to the tribe and demanded it halt gaming. The tribe did, but it also appealed the decision.

The case is pending before the gaming commission.

Eric Shepard, acting general counsel for the gaming commission, said recently that, because the

matter hasn’t been decided, he can’t say much about its status or the time line for a ruling. He did outline the possible outcomes, which include that the notice of violation could be overturned or upheld.

If the violation is overturned, it wouldn’t necessarily mean the Fort Sill Apache tribe has the right to carry out gaming at Akela, Shepard said.

“It would depend on the grounds for why it was overturned,” he said.

If the tribe does get a favorable decision, Haozous said it would move fast to relaunch bingo in Akela. It could happen within 45 to 60 days.

“If the federal government determines it’s legal for us to offer gaming here, we can offer bingo or bingo machines,” he said. “We can offer those without any oversight from the state or paying any fees to the state.”

Meanwhile, full-fledged casino-style card games, known as Class III gaming, would require the Fort Sill Apache tribe to enter into a compact agreement with the state of New Mexico, Haozous said.

Because members have

invested so much time and money into an application via the other route -- the two-part test -- the tribe likely will submit an application to the federal government through that route as well, Haozous said.

“We’re hoping to complete our application and submit it to the federal government,” he said. “It should be any day.”

Haozous maintains that gaming is part of a larger plan to create a hub of economic activity that would attract tribal members to their ancestral lands, he said.

“Gaming provides a narrow range of opportunities, and it’s a very specific industry,” he said. “My goal is to help develop an economy to help our people.”

Jobs could be created for tribal and nontribal members, for instance, through a Fort Sill Apache-owned construction company, Haozous said.

In December, the tribe filed a lawsuit against the Martinez administration, alleging it had refused to cooperate with the tribe in its requests for New Mexico recognition.

Haozous contends that the state last year ignored

the Fort Sill Apache tribe’s request to be invited to an important yearly state gathering of tribes and pueblos. Just before the June 2013 meeting, the tribe was told by the state it wasn’t welcome to attend.

Haozous said those meetings are the start to the process of tribes laying out their infrastructure needs, which results in funding awards. He said the state also hadn’t listed the Fort Sill Apache on a key listing that’s important to state agencies as they interact with tribes and pueblos statewide.

“For reasons unbeknown to us, we weren’t be treated equally under the law,” he said in a recent interview.

Haozous contended the lack of state recognition has hurt the tribe’s construction business in competing for a pool of federal contracts in New Mexico that are awarded to minority groups.

Martinez spokesman Enrique Knell has said the tribe is an Oklahoma tribe trying to capitalize on the gaming market in New Mexico and that the tribe’s initial indications were that the land wouldn’t be used for gaming, according to The Associated Press.

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Tribe drops suit over taxes on slot machines

By MICHAEL MELIA
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) – The tribe that owns the Foxwoods Resort Casino will not appeal a ruling that upheld the government’s authority to collect property taxes on slot machines, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation said Tuesday.

The tribe, which had fought the taxes collected on leased slot machines since 2003, said it will not appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, but

it will take up the issue in discussions with the state of Connecticut.

The tribe said in a statement provided to The Associated Press that it sued “because such taxes are an affront to the tribe’s sovereign authority over its territory,” especially since it provides government services within the reservation.

In July, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York ruled against the tribe, which operates one of the country’s largest casinos.

The decision overturned a lower-court judge who had earlier ruled for the tribe in its lawsuit against the town of Ledyard and the state of Connecticut.

The 2nd Circuit noted that a ruling favorable to the tribe would have invited other non-Indian owners of personal property on the reservation to bring similar lawsuits, costing the town hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in litigation costs.

The lawsuit pertained to

two slot machine companies that generated about \$20,000 in property tax income annually.

The attorney who represented the town, Benjamin S. Sharp, said the town could have suffered much more severely if the tribe blocked tax collection from other vendors such as restaurants with a presence at the casino.

“The amount of dollars involved in a single year are probably not huge, but over many years, particularly if

the principle used by the tribe applied to all property, it became a significant hit to the revenues of the town,” Sharp said Tuesday.

Attorney General George Jepsen said he had no comment on the dispute. But he said he applauded “the willingness of the Mashantucket Pequot tribe to seek an amicable resolution to this matter through discussions with the appropriate local government authorities.”

VOTING

Continued from Page 1

county offices.

As Apache County recorder, Fulton’s job is to ensure the county follows court decrees aimed at encouraging Navajo registration. The county is under Justice Department orders to provide outreach offices on the reservation and translations of the ballot into the Navajo language. Both are necessary to fulfill provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

“Even if it wasn’t required, we realize there are people who need the translation,” said Fulton, the first Native American to be elected as a county recorder in Arizona. “We feel it is an obligation for us to continue to provide it so people have adequate knowledge of what they are voting for.”

The Voting Rights Act had its roots in Selma, Ala. King led marches and protests against political leaders there who worked to keep blacks off the voting rolls.

“Voting is the foundation stone for political action,” King wrote in an article for the New York Times in March 1965. “With it the Negro can eventually vote out of office public officials who bar the doorway to decent housing, public safety, jobs and decent integrated education.”

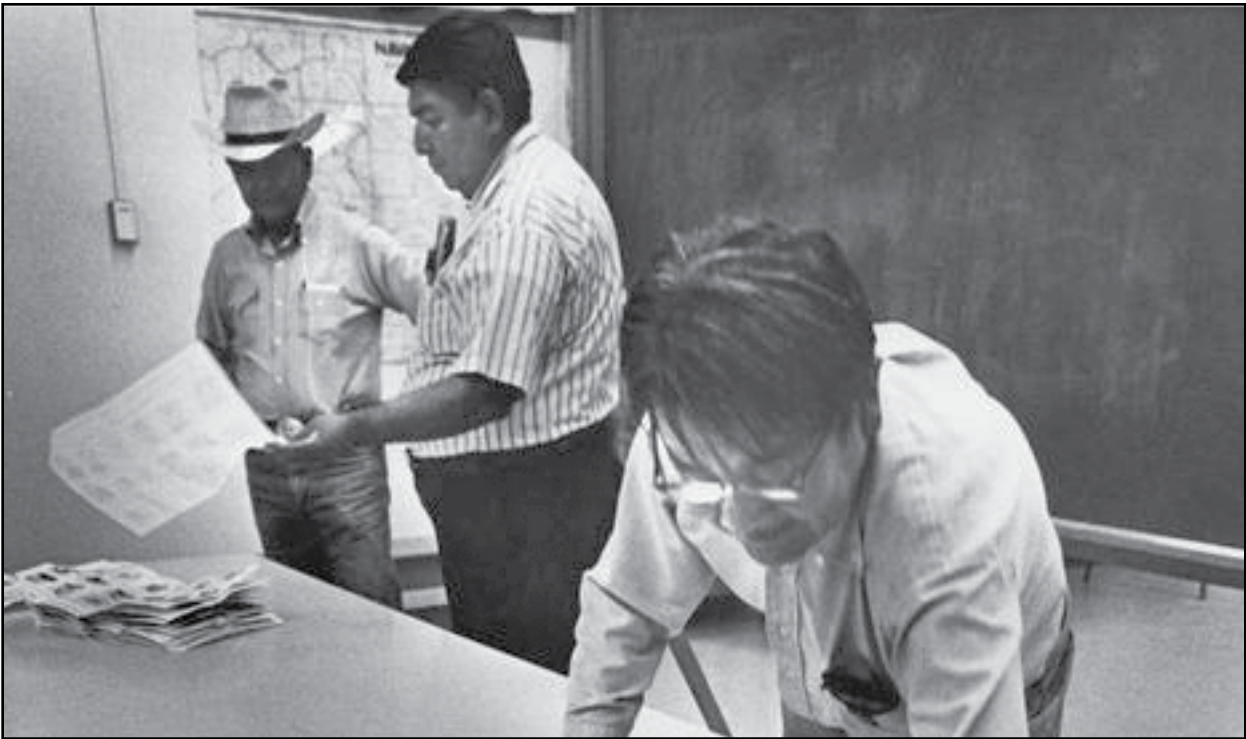
The four-page essay did not mention the plight of Navajos. But while the law was aimed at the South, the actual language applied to any area with low voter registration.

That included Apache County, which includes part of the Navajo Nation. Under the law, literacy tests would be banned and the federal government could take over voter registration in affected areas.

In an editorial that ran the day the act was signed, The Arizona Republic called it “odd” that Apache County would come under a law aimed directly at ending discrimination in Southern states. It said low registration numbers here were simply because Navajos chose not to vote.

“Not even the most wild-eyed civil righter has ever claimed that the Indians in Arizona are prevented from registering and voting,” the editorial said. “Whether even the persuasive talents of federal registrars can force the Navajos to exercise their franchise remains to be seen.”

King attended the ceremony where President Lyndon Johnson signed the act. Also attending was U.S. Sen. Carl



Workers prepare for tribal elections at Window Rock in 1978. Navajos generally didn’t register for state and federal elections before 1965’s Voting Rights Act.

Hayden of Arizona, the president pro tempore of the Senate.

Nellie Shirley, 81, from the tribal community of Lupton, said a man named Max Ortega took it upon himself to educate Navajos in the area about the importance of voting. He persuaded her to register to vote in state and federal elections.

“We were not used to it,” Shirley said. “Mr. Ortega told us how to vote and who to vote for.”

Shirley said her husband, Tom, lost a close election for the tribal council in 1972. She noticed that county elections were coming up and persuaded him to run for supervisor.

Shirley soundly defeated his white opponent for the district supervisor seat in the November 1972 election. But county officials refused to let him take his seat. They argued Navajos were not U.S. citizens and should not hold office.

The court battle dragged on for months. The seat was vacant following the January inauguration ceremony.

The Shirleys felt the support of Navajos on the reservation, which also spans parts of New Mexico and Utah. But Tom Shirley had to travel to Holbrook and St. Johns for court matters. In those places, his wife said, he felt alone. When he returned home, he felt despondent.

“He kept to himself a lot,” Nellie Shirley said.

The Arizona Supreme Court sided with Shirley in September 1973 and he was able to take his elected position nine months after his term

was supposed to begin.

While in office, Shirley fought a move by the county to reapportion the county’s districts, concentrating Navajos in one disproportionately large district and creating two other smaller districts off the reservation. A federal court, citing the Voting Rights Act, ordered the lines redrawn.

Shirley did not seek re-election in 1976. But two Navajos took seats on the three-member county board.

Nellie Shirley said her husband is a trailblazer. “There’s more of our people that got elected to the state and county offices,” she said. “We opened that area where people could run for office.”

A 1975 report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights said federal observers monitoring the 1974 election in Apache County noted a lack of polling places. In Chinle, the report said, voters waited 2 1/2 hours to cast ballots and some waited in line until 12:30 a.m. “Many did not have the stamina for the long wait,” the report said. “Others had to return to work.”

The report suggested the Voting Rights Act be amended to require translation of ballots. Congress added such an amendment that year.

In 1989, the U.S. attorney general filed a complaint that said Apache County, along with Navajo County, were not adequately providing Navajos with ballot information in their language. The county agreed to hire workers to reach out to Navajo voters and translate ballots.

Harold Noble, 77, of Steamboat, was working in the roads department

of Apache County in 1992 when he was pressed into service because he could speak Navajo.

Noble said when Navajos did vote, they often didn’t know what they were voting for. Propositions in particular were a big problem.

“People thought that if you don’t know, just say no,” he said. “Throw a quarter in the air and see if it faces tails. That was the way people voted.”

Noble helped create a glossary of commonly used ballot terms so translations could be consistent from election to election.

Noble would also visit tribal chapter houses and try to inform people about the electoral process. He would read ballots in Navajo over the radio. Such outreach was mandated by the Voting Rights Act and paid for by the county, he said.

Patty Ferguson-Bohnee, director of the Indian Legal Clinic at Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, said she still sees evidence of politicians trying to curtail Native American participation.

Some redistricting efforts continue to try to dilute the Native American vote, she said. And, as recently as 2003, Arizona’s speaker of the House asked the state attorney general whether Navajos could serve on a state commission.

“It’s not history,” Ferguson-Bohnee said. “There’s still a mentality that Indians need to stay on the reservation. It’s just a very odd, backward way of thinking.”

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Oneida rep goes to UN to voice team name complaint

VERONA, N.Y. (AP) – The Oneida Indian leader from upstate New York who has become a high-profile critic of the Washington Redskins’ nickname has taken his case to the United Nations.

The Oneida Indian Nation says Ray Halbritter met Friday with the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights at U.N. headquarters in Manhattan. Halbritter argues that the team’s nickname is racially insensitive. He said he discussed his hope the team would change its name and the U.N.’s global role in combatting racism in sports.

The NFL team was already facing a fresh round of criticism when the Oneidas began airing radio advertisements during the NFL’s regular season critical of the nickname.

Team owner Dan Snyder has called the name “a badge of honor” and said it won’t be changed.

Halbritter says the campaign will continue.

Cherokee Nation seeking military memorabilia

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) – The Cherokee Nation is hosting a reception next month for tribal military veterans who want to contribute military artifacts and other memorabilia to be displayed at the Cherokee Nation Veterans Center in Tahlequah.

The reception is Feb. 1 for veterans or families who are interested in contributing items. It will be hosted by Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker and Deputy Principal Chief Joe Crittenden.

The tribe wants to display uniforms, military gear, flags, recordings, diaries and photographs, among other items.

The 7,700-square-foot center houses veteran assistance and benefit offices, a kitchen, community room, and a library and museum. The entrance will feature a “Wall of Honor” of Cherokee veterans.

Chickasaw Gov. Annoatubby says he won’t run for US Senate

OKLAHOMACITY (AP) – The longtime governor of one of the state’s most powerful Native American tribes says he has no plans to run for Oklahoma’s open U.S. Senate seat this year.

Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Annoatubby released a statement Monday that said while he’s honored to be mentioned as a potential candidate, he doesn’t intend to run. Annoatubby says he hopes to continue in his role as head of the tribe “if it is the will of the Chickasaw people.”

Anoatubby has been governor of the tribe since 1987.

U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn announced last week that he was foregoing the last two years of his term amid another battle against cancer.

Republican U.S. Rep. James Lankford said Monday he planned to run



Governor Bill Annoatubby for the seat.

OSAGE

Continued from Page 1

threatening him with his job.

— Refusing to uphold a tribal law that delegates “full and sole control over all Minerals Estate accounts” to the Osage Minerals Council. The law was enacted in October 2011 with a veto override. In February 2012, Red Eagle wrote to the council that the accounts’ management would remain with the tribe’s treasury instead. During his testimony, Red Eagle reiterated several times that he believes the law to be unconstitutional.

— Abuse of power by withholding at least one contract between the tribe and pipeline consultant Rod Hartness from both the tribe’s newspaper, the Osage News, and the Bigheart Times. Both publications filed formal requests under the tribe’s Open Records Act in 2013 after Red Eagle’s office refused to disclose the terms during a legislative committee meeting. Neither outlet received a response for several months, prompting the Osage News to file a lawsuit that was eventually settled. While testifying on Jan. 17, Red Eagle admitted to breaking the Open Records Act by not responding to the requests within the law’s 10-day window and would not guarantee he would comply with the law if presented

with the same situation.

— Breaking tribal and federal law by using tribal funds for more than two years to pay Paul Allen \$73,000 to maintain and develop the chief’s personal website, www.johnredeagle.com and providing public relations assistance. A volunteer on Red Eagle’s 2010 campaign, Allen was fired by the tribe’s IT department for job abandonment less than three months before signing his first contract with Red Eagle’s administration. The defense was unable to show any physical proof of Allen’s work completed under the terms of his contracts.

“Mr. Allen didn’t work to earn his pay and that is an insult to all of our employees that come in here every day,” Congresswoman Alice Buffalohead said while debating the removal articles with other members of Congress.

“I’ve asked questions to help me understand these issues. I have 100 percent confidence in my vote. Change is inevitable and I guess it was naïve of me to think a removal trial would never happen here.”

Citing conflicting witness testimony, Congress voted unanimously to find Red Eagle not guilty of the sixth allegation that he interfered with the election board by prohibiting disciplinary action against the Osage Election Office supervisor, Alexis Rencountre.

Despite publicly voicing his frustrations with the

process for several months, RedEagle did not speak during or after the removal vote. During a 10-minute recess after the removal vote, he left the Congressional chambers surrounded by family and friends who heckled and harassed members of the press as they attempted to ask the former chief for comment.

After the Congressional session adjourned, Supreme Court justice Jeanine Logan administered the oath of office to Assistant Chief Scott BigHorse.

BigHorse declined to comment and exited the chambers through a side door, escorted by a member of the Osage Nation Police Department. The following day, he issued a statement promising to help the tribe move forward during his months as principal chief.

“Yesterday our nation faced one of the most difficult days in our history. Yesterday is over; today I am looking forward to continuing the positive relationships we have established as a nation with our friends, in our communities, and with our business partners. I will continue the great work we are doing on our current projects such as the Enbridge pipeline project, our master campus plan, and our casino expansions, to name a few. I am also looking forward to working with Congress, our Judiciary, and our Minerals Council in whatever capacity I am needed to ensure the success of these

projects and the unity of the nation going forward.”

BigHorse will serve as principal chief until July. On Friday morning, he nominated attorney Terry Mason Moore to fill the now-vacant position of assistant chief. A resident of Fairfax, Okla., Moore was RedEagle’s general legal counsel prior to his removal and was part of his defense team during the trial. She is among the five assistant chief candidates on the March 10 primary election ballot.

The nomination is pending approval of the Osage Nation Congress. As of the close of business Friday, a special session to consider Moore’s nomination has not been announced.

In addition to voting to remove Red Eagle, Congress also voted 11-0 with one abstention to disqualify the former chief from holding any position of “honor, trust or profit” within the tribe. Geoffrey StandingBear, a candidate in the March primary election for principal chief, abstained from the vote.

Prior to the proceedings, Red Eagle filed paperwork to run for a second term as principal chief and during the trial, was certified as a candidate. The former chief’s name was not among those drawn Jan. 22 when the Osage Nation Election Board determined the ballot order for the tribe’s primary election.

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Northern Arapaho Tribe blasts state’s bid to EPA

The EPA granted a request from the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes to treat their joint reservation as a separate state under the federal Clean Air Act. Wyoming’s governor disagrees.

By BEN NEARY
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) – The Northern Arapaho Tribe is asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reject a request from the state of Wyoming to halt implementation of the agency’s recent decision that over 1 million acres around Riverton remain legally Indian Country. The federal agency announced in December that it had concluded a 1905 federal law opening part of the Wind River Indian Reservation to settlement by non-Indians didn’t extinguish the land’s reservation status. The federal agency’s conclusion has prompted

sharp criticism from Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and other state officials. They say it calls into question state jurisdiction over the disputed lands on a range of issues including law enforcement and environmental regulation. The EPA addressed the boundary issue when it granted a request from the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes to treat their joint reservation as a separate state under the federal Clean Air Act. That decision would give the tribes standing to be consulted on activities within a 50-mile radius of the reservation boundary on activities that promise to affect air quality. Mead has pledged to challenge the EPA decision in court. The state has until Feb. 18 to file its appeal in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. In comments to the Wyoming Press Association in Laramie on Friday, Mead said he understands the tribes’ desire to be more involved in environmental regulation. While he said the state and the tribes long have disagreed over the legal status of the disputed land,

he said his real concern is with overreaching by the EPA. “What’s problematic here is you have a regulatory agency, the EPA, coming without notice to the state and saying, ‘We’re redefining the boundaries of the reservation, and in doing so, we’re redefining the boundaries of state jurisdiction,’ “ Mead said. “It’s problematic that EPA does this. It should certainly be at a higher level, i.e. Congress.” Wyoming Attorney General Peter Michael earlier this month filed a formal request with the EPA asking the agency to stop any action to implement its decision about the disputed land and to reconsider its conclusion. His request included statements from a number of state agency directors about how their operations would be affected by a finding that the disputed land remains Indian Country. Rich Mylott, spokesman for the EPA in Denver, said Wednesday the agency is still evaluating the state’s petition. Regardless of how the EPA responds to Michael’s request, it could help to bolster the state’s



RON FEEMSTER | COURTESY HTTP://WYOFILE.COM
The Select Committee on Tribal Relations met Monday in Fort Washakie to discuss the EPA ruling. (l. to r.) Darrell O’Neal Sr., chairman of the Northern Arapaho tribe, and Darwin St. Clair, Jr., chairman of the Eastern Shoshone tribe. Sen. Cale Case (R-Lander) and Rep. Patrick Goggles (D-Ethete), co-chairs of the select committee.

argument for putting the agency’s decision on hold while what promises to be a lengthy court battle plays out. Lawyers for the tribe, with the Lander law firm of Baldwin, Crocker and Rudd, wrote to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and EPA Regional Administrator Shawn McGrath in Denver on Tuesday urging them to reject the state’s request. The tribe’s lawyers told the federal officials that the state’s petition is full of errors of fact and law. They maintain that it shows the state fundamentally misunderstands the difference between land ownership versus the sovereign authority over the territory. “Worse yet, the letter manufactures mythical consequences for local communities that appear to be designed to inflame racial division and conflict,” the tribe’s lawyers told the EPA. Michael said Wednesday he had no comment on the letter.

Panel votes against bill to remove speaker

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) – A Navajo Nation Council committee has voted against legislation to remove council Speaker Johnny Naize because of pending bribery and conspiracy charges. The committee voted twice Thursday to table the legislation sponsored by Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd. However, the legislation still advances to the council’s winter session, which starts Monday in Window Rock, the Daily Times reported. Shepherd said his legislation is intended to preserve “the image, the integrity that the chair brings to this council.” Delegate Kenneth Maryboy said the council should not cave to “social or media pressure” in removing Naize. “Who are we to judge somebody?” Maryboy said. Naize has said he will not

step down and that he did nothing wrong. He is serving his second consecutive two-year term as speaker. Naize is scheduled to be arraigned in March on 10 counts of bribery and one of conspiracy, stemming from an investigation into lawmakers’ use of tribal slush funds. Prosecutors allege Naize’s family received \$36,550 in discretionary funding in exchange for his providing \$36,900 to family members of current and former council delegates. The discretionary funding was intended for uses such as student financial aid, people facing extreme hardship and assistance for elderly Navajo. Delegate Lorenzo Curley said he would step aside as speaker if he faced the pending charges but didn’t want as this point to vote to remove Naize. But if Naize does not voluntarily vacate the office, Curley said he would vote to remove him. Delegate Katherine Benally supported Naize. “Speaker Naize from here to January of 2015,” Benally said. The investigation into the discretionary funds began after a larger Tribal Council of 88 delegates voted in 2009 to place then-President Joe Shirley Jr. on administrative leave over allegations that he acted unethically and illegally in dealing with two companies that had operated on the reservation. The allegations never were made public, and Shirley never was charged. A tribal judge ruled that the council acted outside its authority. The decision later upheld by the tribe’s Supreme Court came on the eve of an election that reduced the council to 24 members.

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The Otoe-Missouria Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Programs sponsor an open group for families touched by addiction from noon to 1 p.m. at the Otoe-Missouria Health Building. This is a confidential group. Call 580-723-4466 x252 or x262 for more information.

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs

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EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

JANUARY 29
Kiowa Class - Spring Term: January 29 through April 23, 2014, every Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 141, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa

University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY 1
Eufaula Canadian Tribal Town presents 'The Dawes Commission' play at 3pm at the Eufaula Indian Community's event center. Doors will open at 10:30 for the arts and craft sale and other activities. Admission to the play is free.

FEBRUARY 8
Birthday-Retirement Gourd Dance honoring Eugene 'Gene' Big Soldier Sr. at the Otoe-Missouria Multi Purpose Building, Red Rock, Okla. Gourd Dancing at 2pm, Supper at 5:30. Dancing resumes at 6:30pm. For more info fall Gene Big Soldier Jr at 918-841-3348 or Carol Kaulaity at 405-385-2071.

FEBRUARY 8
Oklahoma City Powwow Club Benefit Dance at Concho Community Center, Concho. Gourd Dancing at 2pm. Grand Entry at 7pm. Featuring a Two Step Contest, Raffles, Cake Walk, Arts & Crafts. More info: Fran Cady

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FEBRUARY 9
2013 OSSAA 4-A Football State Championship Team Victory Pow-wow for the Anadarko Warriors (all gourd dance) on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014 at Anadarko Warrior Gym, in Anadarko Oklahoma.

FEBRUARY 11
Oklahoma Indian Summer presents: Native Fashion, from Culture to Couture at Hillcrest Country Club, Bartlesville. Doors open at 6pm. Show starts at 7pm. Tickets \$25 - contact Lori Pannell 918-397-2125.

FEBRUARY 14
Deposit due to play in Gamma Delta Pi's "Native Hoops" Men's & Women's Open Basketball Tournament Feb. 22 & 23. 10 Man Roster - Prizes, trophies, and t-shirts for 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place, All-Tournament and MVP Awards. \$275 Entry Fee, \$150 deposit is due February 14, 2014. There is a \$25 late fee for deposits received after that date. No teams may register after February 14. With your money, please include your

team name, roster, contact person with phone number and address. Please make money orders and checks payable to Gamma Delta Pi. Deposits (money order, cash or check) can be sent to: Gamma Delta Pi PO Box 2493 Norman, OK 73070 Contact: Maddie Habeck Maddie.e.habeck-1@ou.edu (918) 698-1256

FEBRUARY 21
Indian Taco \$7.00 for Taco & Dessert: Indian Fellowship Baptist Church 6130 S. 58th W. Ave Oakhurst, Okla: Deliveries 5 or more contact: Mary Kelley 918-636-8394.

FEBRUARY 21
Native American Veterans Benefit Enrollment Fair at Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center, 224 E Poplar St., Holdenville, 9am - 3pm. Info call 405-456-3876. Bring a copy of your DD form 214. Need a ride from Seminole or Wewoka? Call 405-303-2683

FEBRUARY 22-23
Gamma Delta Pi's "Native Hoops" Men's & Women's Open Basketball Tournament.

Wyoming aims to protect Ute rock art

By DAVID LOUIS
Rawlins Times

RAWLINS, Wyo. (AP) – On the windswept northern plains, a group of Ute Indians ventured along with a herd of stolen horses. Their destination in 1880, the Powder Wash area of south central Wyoming, a few miles from the Colorado border, and an isolated encampment that offered shelter, water and a place to sketch fantastic art work.

Now, officially known as the Powder Wash Archaeological District, it's home to a wealth of rock art sites, a drift wood corral encircling the entire valley, a group of wickiups (a type of teepee) and enclosed rock shelters.

Because of its importance, the archaeological district was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 6, 2013.

Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

The most impressive – and fragile – feature of Powder Wash are its 19 rock art sites where either images were drawn primarily by use of charcoal onto sandstone outcrops or etched into the stone's surface.

"Basically what was going on there was a very long, long period of use, perhaps as early as the 1500s, but the heaviest concentration of use occurred between about 1700 and 1880," said James Keyser, a former archaeologist with the Oregon Archaeological Society.

Though some locals have known of the site's existence for decades, it wasn't until the 1990s when a crew with the Western Archaeological Services officially discovered the site as they conducted land surveys for a proposed pipeline project.

In Sept. 2006, Keyser brought specialists from the Oregon Archaeological Society, assisted by volunteers from the Wyoming Archaeological Society, to conduct an extensive survey on the rock art at Powder Wash.

"I grew up in western Montana, and I saw my first rock art site when I was 9 years old and kind of fell in love with it. I've been studying rock art ever since," he said.

Keyser's interpretation of the art at Powder Wash

is considered to be biographical, telling a story, rather than representing something spiritual. Many of the themes involve drawings of horses, which were incredibly important to the Ute. As with most Indian tribes the horse represented

shelters offering any kind of (potential) occupation. People weren't necessarily living in them. Literally they are just angled rocks that you can get under."

Besides the charcoal drawings, also known as pictographs, there are

Indians to create a corral and staging area for the pilfered horses that is best viewed from the air.

"It actually encompasses about three square miles," Walker said. It stretches along the juniper ridges surrounding the valley. The

"The rock art is very fragile," he added. "You absolutely do not want to touch it. Even when the rock is not breaking off in big chunks, you can go up to it and run your hand over it, and a trickle of sand will come off the rock face."

Along with the assaults from Mother Nature there also has been a great deal of illegal commercial moss rock collecting at the site, along with vandalism to the artwork.

"It's really a tough thing for an archaeologist to decide what's best," Walker said. "Do we keep it a secret as long as possible, and hope that it's going to protect itself because nobody knows about it? Or, do we shine a spotlight on it, and tell people there is this great thing here and we're keeping our eyes on it?"

Keyser is also concerned with the fragility of the Indian artwork.

"We don't keep it a secret just to keep it secret. We keep it secret because one idiot with a spray can, or one idiot with a pocket-knife can ruin something that's priceless," he said.

Unfortunately, listing Powder Wash on the National Registry does not provide any type of formal protection.

"It's more of a feather in your hat," Keyser said. "Federal agents and federal land management agencies are supposed to put the best and brightest things on the National Register to ensure that those sites are taken into account when land development projects are purposed."

Anyone seeking development on public lands have to research the National Register to determine if historic or important sites are present.

"Powder Wash would come up as a big red flag," Keyser said. "Basically it says 'hey we've got something really keen down here.' In that sense, it brings it into the process with a higher level of scrutiny."

"It doesn't mean you can't develop in the area, but what it does mean is that land managing agencies will put on more cautionary stipulations in place with tighter control. People just can't go willy-nilly through the area."



Powder Wash Archaeological Site

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF STATE PARKS | COURTESY

concluded that it was most likely done by the Ute, because of its close match to similar drawings known to be from the Indian tribe.

"What you have here are Ute horse raiders. They came north into Wyoming where they stole their enemy's horses," Keyser said. "They took them back to the Powder Rim where they held them before taking them back to their tribal lands on the northern Colorado Plateau. It was pretty common for the plains Indians to raid their neighbors as well as the immigrants."

The rock art at Powder

is a symbol of their wealth. Along with horses there are also vivid depictions of bison, bear, birds, elk, as well as human figures.

"There are some overlapping images that better represent drawings from the Shoshoni. They may have been using this area for the same reasons," said Patrick Walker, Rawlins Bureau of Land Management field office archaeologist, during a presentation to fellow employees.

"A lot of the rock art is found in little sheltered areas," Walker added. "A lot of them are not deep

impressive sized boulders with symbols and figures carved into the rock, known as petroglyphs.

"There's not much that was pecked out here," Walker said. "It's not like you see in places in the southwest where they pecked away at the desert varnish. These are actually ground into the rock. This is the only site I know of that has exposed, external, big incised rocks like this."

Though visitors can get up and personal with many of the features at Powder Wash, it is the huge drift wood enclosure, used by the

thing special about the valley is (the Ute) had everything. You had a great water source. You had a lot of grass in the bottom of the valley, and you had sheltered (defensible) areas."

Although the Powder Wash Archaeological District is in a remote location it has come under threat from both natural and man-made threats.

Since the field-work was done in 2006, some of the art has crumbled. Because the rock is made of soft sandstone it is very susceptible to erosion," Walker said.



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DISENROLLMENT

Continued from Page 1

Prickett’s family is fighting the effort, part of what some experts have dubbed the “disenrollment epidemic” – a rising number of dramatic clashes over tribal belonging that are sweeping through more than a dozen states, from California to Michigan.

“In my entire life, I have always known I was an Indian. I have always known my family’s history, and I am so proud of that,” Prickett said. She said her ancestor chief Tumulth was unjustly accused of participating in a revolt and was executed by the U.S. Army – and hence didn’t make it onto the tribe’s roll, which is now a membership requirement.

The prospect of losing her membership is “gut-wrenching,” Prickett said.

“It’s like coming home one day and having the keys taken from you,” she said. “You’re culturally homeless.”

The enrollment battles come at a time when many tribes – long poverty-stricken and oppressed by government policies – are finally coming into their own, gaining wealth and building infrastructure with revenues from Indian casinos.

Critics of disenrollment say the rising tide of tribal expulsions is due to greed over increased gambling profits, along with political in-fighting and old family and personal feuds.

But at the core of the problem, tribes and experts agree, is a debate over identity – over who is “Indian enough” to be a tribal member.

“It ultimately comes down to the question of how we define what it means to be Native today,” said David Wilkins, a political science professor at the University of Minnesota and a member of North Carolina’s Lumbee Tribe. “As tribes who suffered genocidal policies, boarding school laws and now out-marriage try to recover their identity in the 20th century, some are more fractured, and they appear to lack the kind of common elements that lead to true cohesion.”

Wilkins, who has tracked the recent increase in disenrollment across the nation, says tribes have kicked out thousands of people.

Historically, ceremonies and prayers – not disenrollment – were used to resolve conflicts because tribes essentially are family-based, and “you don’t cast out your relatives,” Wilkins said. Banishment was used in rare, egregious situations to cast out tribal members who committed crimes such as murder or incest.

Most tribes have based their membership criteria on blood quantum or on descent from someone named on a tribe’s census rolls or treaty records – old documents that can be flawed.

There are 566 federally recognized tribes and determining membership has long been considered a hallmark of tribal sovereignty. A 1978 U.S. Supreme Court ruling reaffirmed that policy when it said the federal government should stay out of most tribal membership disputes.

Mass disenrollment battles started in the 1990s, just as Indian casinos were establishing a foothold. Since then, Indian gambling revenues have skyrocketed from \$5.4 billion in 1995 to a record \$27.9 billion in 2012, according to the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Tribes have used the money to build housing, schools and roads, and to fund tribal health care and scholarships. They also have distributed casino profits to individual tribal members.



DON RYAN | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Mia Prickett, middle, shares a collection of family photos with great aunt’s Marilyn Portwood, right, and Val Alexander in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014. Prickett’s ancestor Tumulth, a leader of the Cascade Indians along the Columbia River, was one of the chiefs who signed an 1855 treaty that helped establish the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde in Oregon. But the Grand Ronde now wants to disenroll Prickett and 79 relatives because they no longer satisfy new enrollment requirements.

Of the nearly 240 tribes that run more than 420 gambling establishments across 28 states, half distribute a regular per-capita payout to their members. The payout amounts vary from tribe to tribe. And membership reductions lead to increases in the payments – though tribes deny money is a factor in disenrollment and say they’re simply trying to strengthen the integrity of their membership.

Disputes over money come on top of other issues for tribes. American Indians have one of the highest rates of interracial marriage in the U.S. – leading some tribes in recent years to eliminate or reduce their blood quantum requirements. Also, many Native Americans don’t live on reservations, speak Native languages or “look” Indian, making others question their bloodline claims.

Across the nation, disenrollment has played out in dramatic, emotional ways that left communities reeling and cast-out members stripped of their payouts, health benefits, fishing rights, pensions and scholarships.

In Central California, the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians has disenrolled hundreds. Last year, the dispute over banishments became so heated that sheriff’s deputies were called to break up a violent skirmish between two tribal factions that left several people injured.

In Washington, after the Nooksack Tribal Council voted to disenroll 306 members citing documentation errors, those affected sued in tribal and federal courts. They say the tribe, which has two casinos but gives no member payouts, was racially motivated because the families being cast out are part Filipino. This week, the Nooksack Court of Appeals declined to stop the disenrollments.

And in Michigan, where Saginaw Chippewa membership grew once the tribe started giving out yearly per-capita casino payments that peaked at \$100,000, a recent decline in gambling profits led to disenrollment battles targeting

hundreds.

The Grand Ronde, which runs Oregon’s most profitable Indian gambling operation, also saw a membership boost after the casino was built in 1995, from about 3,400 members to more than 5,000 today. The tribe has since tightened membership requirements twice, and annual per-capita payments decreased from about \$5,000 to just over \$3,000.

Some members recently were cast out for being enrolled in two tribes, officials said, which is prohibited. But for Prickett’s relatives, who were tribal members before the casino was built, the reasons were unclear.

Prickett and most of her relatives do not live on the reservation. In fact, only about 10 percent of Grand Ronde members do. Rather, they live on ancestral lands. The tribe has even used the family’s ties to the river to fight another tribe’s casino there.

Grand Ronde spokeswoman Siobhan Taylor said the tribe’s membership pushed for an enrollment audit, with the goal of strengthening its “family tree.” She declined to say how many people were tabbed for disenrollment.

But Prickett’s family says it has been told that up to 1,000 could be cast out, and has filed an ethics complaint before the tribal court. They say the process has been devastating for a family active in tribal arts and events, and in teaching the language Chinuk Wawa.

“I have made a commitment to both our language and our tribe,” said Eric Bernardo, one of only seven Chinuk Wawa teachers who also faces disenrollment. “And no matter what some people in the tribe decide, I will continue to honor that commitment.”

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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 20 + ISSUE 06

FEBRUARY 10-14, 2014

National groups call for ICWA investigation

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PORTLAND, Ore. – Four national Native American organizations are calling for a federal investigation into ongoing wholesale violations of a law designed to protect Native children.

On Feb. 3, the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the Native American Rights Fund and the Association of American Indian Affairs announced their formal request for the Department of Justice to investigate mass mistreatment of American Indian and Alaska Native children through widespread violations of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Passed in 1978, the Indian Child Welfare Act was designed to combat the high rate of American Indian and Alaska Native children taken from their families and placed in foster

See ICWA on Page 2

3 tribes have new authority over non-Indians

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – Three American Indian tribes in the West soon will have the power to prosecute non-Indians for a limited set of crimes, becoming the first group of native communities to get such authority since a 1978 U.S. Supreme Court ruling forbade it.

The ruling stripped tribes of any criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians on their reservations. But last year's reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act allows tribes to bring cases against non-Indians for domestic violence crimes and violations of protection orders.

U.S. Department of Justice officials announced Thursday that the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Arizona, the Tulalip Tribes of Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla

See AUTHORITY on Page 3

DEATH IN THE DAKOTAS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Debbie Dogskin, 61, died on the Standing Rock Reservation while house-sitting for a friend in a rundown mobile home with an empty propane tank. The nation is under a propane crisis as wind chills as low as 50 below are being felt in some parts of the Northern Plains.

Propane shortage fuels reservation crisis, fatality

By BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

FORT YATES, N.D. (AP) – A nationwide propane shortage is hitting an American Indian reservation that straddles the border of North and South Dakota particularly hard, causing tribal officials to warn that the thousands of low-income residents who live there are running out of ways to heat their ramshackle homes.

The Standing Rock Reservation is on the wind-swept Northern Plains where there is little to block the icy gales

that whip in from the northwest and create wind chills as low as 50 below. Many residents live in mobile homes, some with ill-fitting doors, others with boards tacked up where the windows should be, or deteriorating roofs that leak much-needed warmth.

The propane crisis escalated this past week when Debbie Dogskin, 61, died while house-sitting for a friend in a rundown mobile home with an empty propane tank.

“We think she just fell asleep and died,” said her mother, Sara Dogskin, tears trickling from the corners of her

eyes as she stared out the dining room window of her house just a few blocks from where her daughter died early Tuesday.

Preliminary autopsy results released Friday did not identify a cause of death, but Sioux County Sheriff Frank Landeis said he believes Dogskin froze to death because it was as cold inside the home as out that morning – 1 degree below zero. Dogskin's family said she had taken off some of her clothes, a symptom of the altered state

See CRISIS on Page 5



COURTESY

Oglala Sioux Council members say they are considering marijuana's medical uses, and some argued that it could ease the dependency of tribal members on powerful prescription painkillers.

Tribe considers vote to legalize pot

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) – An Oglala Sioux tribal committee has started a process that could allow a public vote on whether to legalize marijuana use on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The tribal council's business development committee approved the measure last week, and the full tribal council soon could approve a public vote, councilman Kevin Yellow Bird Steele told the Rapid City Journal.

Council members say they are considering marijuana's medical uses, and some argued that it could ease the dependency of tribal members on powerful prescription painkillers.

“It's not something the council wants to make a decision on by themselves,” Yellow Bird Steele said. “It will be up to the people across the reservation.”

Just last August, reservation members narrowly voted to end prohibition and sell alcohol

on the tribal land.

The alcohol ban had been in place for most of the reservation's 124-year history, with supporters arguing that legalization would only exacerbate the impoverished tribe's problems with domestic abuse, suicide, infant mortality, unemployment and violent crime. But opponents noted that liquor stores in Whiteclay, Neb., a speck of a town along the reservation's border, were

See POT on Page 5

Cherokee man running in his undies for CTF

By DANA ATTOCKNIE
Native Times

SALINA, Okla. – When it comes to raising awareness about Neurofibromatosis (NF), some people feel clothing is optional.

Showing a little skin is all worth it for Jerry Willman, Cherokee, who is getting ready to disrobe and participate in a Cupid's Undie Run on Feb. 15 in Austin, Texas.

Since 2010, thousands of people have raised eyebrows and awareness about NF by shedding their clothes and thundering through the streets in nothing but their underwear. The Cupid's Undie Run began

in Washington, DC and is now held in 27 U.S. cities and three Australian cities each February.

This will be Willman's first time to participate in a Cupid's Undie Run. However, he's no stranger to other NF fundraisers or what NF can do to people. Willman was diagnosed with NF1 at 17, when he was a senior in high school. He wanted to join the Navy, but after going through a physical exam, he found out he had NF and was ineligible to enlist.

The underwear run is a fundraiser for the Children's Tumor Foundation (CTF). The idea for the run began when Chad Leathers found out his brother Drew was diagnosed with NF. Chad and his friends Brendan Hanrahan and Bobby Gill created the event to support research.

“Kids with NF have to overcome challenges on a daily basis,” Chad Leathers stated. “This event puts people in an uncomfortable situation while putting some hilarity in charity.”

NF is a genetic disorder that can lead to learning disabilities, blindness, deafness, chronic pain and cancer. With NF, tumors can grow along nerves throughout a person's body. There are three types of NF: NF1, also called von Recklinghausen NF or Peripheral NF; NF2 also called Bilateral Acoustic NF (BAN), and Schwannomatosis.

“I'm the only one in my family with it,”



COURTESY

Cherokee Nation citizen Jerry Willman carries one of his inspirations to walk during the 2012 NF 5K Walk in Tulsa, Okla. Willman will be showing a little skin this Saturday, Feb. 15, in Austin, Texas, when he participates in Cupid's Undie Run.

See RUN on Page 5



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Kickapoo Tribe will seek federal help on reservoir

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) – An American Indian tribe that has been trying for years to build a reservoir near its northeast Kansas property is considering seeking federal help to secure land for it.

Efforts by the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas to build Plum Creek Reservoir have been stalled by the water district that oversees the land close to the tribe’s property 50 miles north of Topeka, The Topeka Capital-Journal reported. The tribe has acquired only about half the land needed to build the reservoir.

A federal court ruled Dec. 20 after seven years of litigation that the tribe cannot compel the Nemaha-Brown Watershed Joint District No. 7 to use its powers of eminent domain to obtain private property needed for the reservoir.

Tribal Chairman Steve Cadue and Vice Chairman Curtis Simon met with Gov. Sam Brownback on Friday to discuss their efforts to build

the Plum Creek Reservoir and how they plan to enforce federal treaty rights to end the decades-long standoff.

“I said we’ve exhausted state law,” Cadue said. “We have yet to pursue federal treaty water rights, (which are) senior water rights superior to the state of Kansas.”

Cadue and Simon left Brownback a letter saying they will ask the federal government to acquire the land through eminent domain by invoking treaty agreements. “Our Indian treaties are the supreme law of the land and we ask for protection from the State of Kansas taking our water,” Cadue wrote.

He said the tribe needs water for farming and other uses. “We want a water supply for economic development and irrigation,” Cadue said.

They also asked to include the tribe’s needs in the Kansas Water Plan experts are developing to deal with the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer.



THAD ALLTON | COURTESY THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL
In this file photo, Kickapoo tribal chairman Steve Cadue looks at the dam on the Delaware River that currently provides water for tribal residents. The tribe says their reservoir project is critical to their people’s water security.

Former Navajo president cleared in investigation

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – Former Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. has been cleared of allegations that he acted unethically and illegally in dealing with two businesses on the reservation.

The allegations against Shirley arose in 2009 between the Tribal Council and the two-term president. Shirley was in the midst of an effort to downsize the council from 88 members to 24 when the council heard reports that it said revealed serious improprieties and violations within the executive branch.

The council used the reports, which were not publicly released, to call for an investigation of Shirley and placed him on administrative leave. Prosecutors conducting that investigation announced this week that

they found no evidence of misconduct by Shirley. A tribal judge also signed off on a request by prosecutors to dismiss claims that Shirley breached his fiduciary duty in connection with tribal discretionary funds.

Shirley said he fully cooperated with the investigation, citing Scripture in saying “the truth will set you free.”

Navajo courts ultimately ruled that the council acted outside its authority in placing Shirley on leave, and he was reinstated on the eve of the election in which Navajos voted to significantly downsize the Tribal Council. The investigation into his dealings with a satellite Internet company and a manufacturing business was expanded to include the Tribal Council’s use of a discretionary fund and the management of it.

Prosecutors have alleged that current and former tribal lawmakers diverted tribal

money intended for Navajos in need to their own families. Some defendants, including President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim, settled their cases. About 20 others have been charged criminally in the investigation, while roughly the same number have been cleared of wrongdoing.

Shirley’s exoneration comes during an election year for the council and presidency. Shirley would not comment on whether he plans to seek the top leadership post. He was set to run for a third consecutive term in 2010 but was barred by term limits. He said had the council not called for an investigation into his dealings, the Navajo people might not have known about the alleged scheme involving discretionary funds.

Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler, a former council spokesman during Shirley’s second term, said that it’s good Shirley can move past the investigation. But he said he and the council want to know more about what caused the failure of Utah-based OnSat Network Communications Inc. and Shiprock, N.M.-based Biochemical Decontamination Systems.

The Navajo Nation entered into a \$1.9 million contract with OnSat in 2001 to provide Internet services to all 110 chapters that ballooned to \$32 million by January 2006. The tribe invested \$300,000 in BCDS in 2003 and held a 51 percent ownership stake. Tribal officials have said the failed business ultimately cost the tribe \$2 million.

ICWA

Continued from Page 1

care. The law requires tribal notification when a child who is either an enrolled tribal citizen or eligible for citizenship is taken into custody or placed for adoption. It also codifies placement preferences for the child and outlines legal protections for parents, requiring active remediation efforts be made to keep a family intact.

In a joint letter requesting the investigation, the four organizations acknowledged the law’s impact on communities across Indian Country.

“Undoubtedly, ICWA halted what was for some the wholesale removal of Indian children from their family, culture and community. There is no question that where ICWA is applied, it has been integral to keeping countless Native American families together. ICWA is not just considered good practice for AI/AN children by experts and practitioners alike, but the principles and processes it embodies were recently described as the ‘gold standard’ for child welfare practice generally.”

Although no specific cases were mentioned in the letter, several indirect references were

made to the fact pattern in the ongoing fight for “Baby Desirai,” an Absentee Shawnee infant born in Stillwater, Okla., in May 2013, and spirited to South Carolina by an adoption attorney without properly signed paperwork. The infant’s tribe was awarded custody last year by an Oklahoma judge, but South Carolina courts have not recognized the order. So far, the infant has not been returned to her father.

“NICWA frequently hears stories of adoption agencies ignoring the tribal membership of children, of state attorneys failing to provide notice to a tribe when a child is taken into custody, of child welfare workers sometimes knowingly placing children outside ICWA’s placement preferences, and of judges denying tribal representation a presence in the courtroom,” the four organizations wrote in their joint letter. “NICWA also often hears stories of guardians ad litem mocking Native culture, state workers demeaning AI/AN parents and traditional ways of parenting, and attorneys using professional networks to encourage purposeful circumvention of ‘ridiculous’ or ‘unnecessary’ adoption requirements of ICWA.”

Attempts to reach U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder for comment were unsuccessful.

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Comanche Nation seminar to help young women

By COMANCHE NATION
Media Release

The Comanche Nation invites 40 enrolled women between the ages of 18-40 to participate in an inaugural 6-month leadership program with weekly one-on-one coaching.

White Dove Leadership & Coaching Seminar: The Path to a Self-Sufficient & Empowered Life Seminar meets one Saturday a month from 9:15am – 12noon, Feb 22, Mar 29, April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26. at the Comanche Nation Complex.

Eligibility is based on the following requirements: Enrolled member of Comanche Nation, Female (18-40), can attend ALL dates

of the seminar and be available for a weekly 30-second coaching call.

The seminar is a roadmap for any Native woman who is looking for insights on how to create a life they want:

- Personal core value system
- Goal setting & budget planning
- Taming doubts and excuses
- Creating a new life story

Bring your biggest goals, questions and challenges for 2014 and this program will guide you through personal development principals to help you unleash energy in every aspect of your life. Registration will be closed once 40 eligible participants are registered. All participants will be contacted and a confirmation email sent.

Creek County Democrats announce scholarship

The Creek County Democratic Party is pleased to announce it is offering two \$500 scholarships in honor of its former chair, Willene Wright.

The scholarship competition is open to all graduating seniors who 1) are residents of Creek County and 2) are either registered Democrats or have at least one parent or guardian who is a registered Democrat in Creek County. Public school, private school, or home schooled students are welcome to apply. The scholarships may be applied to any accredited trade school, vocational school, or institute of higher education.

Details and application forms are available by emailing us at creekcountymdemocratscholarship@hotmail.com, or by calling 918-227-1586. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 3, 2014 to be considered.



CHEROKEE NATION MEDIA

Students prepare valentines for local veterans groups as part of the Cherokee Nation's Valentines for Veterans Program. The Cherokee Nation expected to distributed more than 2,500 valentines by this Valentine's Day.

Cherokee Nation to deliver valentines to area vets

By JULIE HUBBARD
Cherokee Nation Media

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – The Cherokee Nation will deliver more than 2,500 handmade valentine cards to veterans in northeastern Oklahoma in time for Valentine's Day.

More than 20 schools and organizations from across the tribe's 14-county jurisdiction set aside time to craft uniquely designed cards addressed to "My Hero" and "Our Vets."

"The valentines for veterans program is a way that many people can get involved in showing support and appreciation for the men and women who served in our country's military forces," said Jennifer Kirby,

executive assistant for Cherokee Nation Human Services.

Starting Feb. 10, valentines were to be delivered by Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Nation Businesses employees to Veterans Affairs hospitals in Muskogee and Fayetteville, Ark. They will also be delivered to veteran health clinics in Vinita and Tulsa, Cherokee Nation senior nutrition sites and the Claremore Veterans Center.

"The veterans are very appreciative of the valentines they get, and the younger visitors cheer them up and brighten their day," said Greg Sorenson, chief of volunteer services at Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center in Muskogee. "It lets the veterans know they are

not forgotten."

Curtis Washington, Army veteran and teacher at Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School, participated by having his sixth-grade class make cards.

"The students get a sense of self-satisfaction that they've done something good for somebody," Washington said. "They may not even know all the details behind it, but they understand the concept of giving and thanking those who have served our country."

Cherokee Nation's valentines program started in 2008 by the late Rogan Noble, a Marine veteran and advocate for the tribe's veterans' affairs. The program is part of the National Salute to Veteran Patients.

AUTHORITY

Continued from Page 1

Indian Reservation in Oregon have met requirements to implement provisions of the law starting Feb. 20 under a pilot project. Other tribes can implement the law starting in March 2015.

The changes to tribal jurisdiction resulted from the high rate of domestic violence on reservations, and from an effort to give tribes more authority over crime, according to the Justice Department. American Indian women suffer from domestic violence at rates more than double national averages.

Jurisdiction on reservations is split among tribes, states and the federal government, depending on the crime and the race of the person involved.

Tribes have civil jurisdiction over non-Indians but often are reluctant to go forward with a case when the penalty amounts to a fine and offenders have little incentive to pay.

Federal authorities have jurisdiction over major crimes like homicide and assault resulting in serious bodily injury when the victim, suspect, or both, is American Indian. But not all domestic violence on reservations rises to the level of a federal crime.

"By showing people that, in fact, if a non-Indian commits these acts, we'll hold them accountable, it might encourage victims to come forward, speak out and seek help," said Brent Leonhard, an attorney in the Umatilla Office of Legal Counsel.

To be part of the pilot project, the tribes had to amend their legal codes, create jury pools that include non-Indians and ensure defendants receive the same rights offered in state and federal courts. The Violence Against Women Act also allows defendants to petition a federal court for review of a tribal court decision. The tribes will have jurisdiction over non-Indians who live or work on the reservation and who are married to or in a partnership with a tribal member.

Pascua Yaqui Chief Prosecutor Fred Urbina estimates that 1,000 non-Indians live or work on the southern Arizona reservation. He said nearly 270 of the more than 500 criminal charges filed against American Indians in the tribal court in 2011 stemmed from domestic violence. While the caseload won't increase significantly with jurisdiction over non-Indians, he said the tribe can better send the message that justice for victims is possible.

"You don't really want one person being in that situation, being attacked and not having any kind of redress or justice," he said. "I see that as one of the primary roles of any government, local, state or federal, is protecting your people."

The tribes are required to report cases to the DOJ as well as any changes in personnel needed to meet the requirements of prosecuting non-Indians, Urbina said.



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IHS out of money – Will you die waiting?



By MARK TRAHANT

Ed. Note: A new report by the Congressional Budget Office showing that the Affordable care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare, could lead to some 2 million jobs lost has added fuel to Republican attacks on the president's premier piece of legislation. But for American Indians and Alaska Natives in a number of states, the repercussions of turning down key provisions of the law are already being felt.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – On a tribal bulletin board this week these chilling words were posted: “Due to budget issues, Contract Health Service will be on Priority One until further notice.”

Why are these words

frightening? It means the underfunded local unit of the Indian Health Service is out of money on an important line item. It means that unless your illness is serious -- threatening life or limb -- you will have to wait.

Sometimes that wait can be deadly. And it's wrong. It reflects a system that is out of balance and the consequences are life threatening to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

A couple of years ago, at a Senate hearing, a story was told about a heart attack patient who was left on a gurney with a note taped on her thigh that read: “If you admit this person, understand we're out of contract health care money. Do it at your risk.”

The Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, is supposed to eliminate this underfunding. The complicated mechanism is designed to increase the number of American Indians and Alaska Natives with basic insurance, Medicaid, tribal insurance, or a policy from a marketplace exchange, money that then goes into the Indian health system directly. The Affordable Care Act is designed to substantially

increase third-party billing, a revenue stream that does not require appropriation from Congress. And, I should add, a revenue stream that could add a couple of billion dollars to the Indian health system. Full funding ... in theory.

So what's the problem? Why is there a bulletin board warning patients that's there is not enough money?

The main reason is that critics of the Affordable Care Act are determined to make certain that this law is a wreck. Instead of figuring how to make it so, many so-called leaders are working overtime to tank every aspect of the act.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Wisconsin Republican Sen. Ron Johnson said it was time to “recognize reality” and “deal with the people that are currently covered under Obamacare.”

But that was then. Now three Republican senators, Richard Burr (N.C.), Tom Coburn, (Okla.), and Orrin Hatch (Utah), are launching a campaign to start the debate all over, promoting a “replacement” plan for Obamacare. That plan would make it even more difficult

to fund the Indian health system. “Under our proposal, restrictions that limit the ability for veterans, service members, and individuals receiving care through the Indian Health Service would be removed in order to ensure that these individuals also have the ability to benefit from health savings accounts in managing their health care needs and expenses,” according to the plan.

This bill would also repeal the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. And treaty rights? Gone. Unfunded.

That Republican bill will go nowhere as long as President Obama (or another Democrat) is in office. But a second, more serious, threat to the law is occurring in state capitals across the country. The way the law was drafted, the primary funding vehicle was to expand Medicaid to buy insurance for people who are currently uninsured. (According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, that's one-in-three American Indians and Alaska Natives.)

The federal government made this a good deal for the states: Paying all of the cost for the first three years and

nearly all of the cost after that. Half the states have said “no.” Republicans are using this as their line in the sand against Obamacare.

A study published last week in Health Affairs said that this approach has serious consequences, the failure of Medicaid expansion will result in premature deaths. “We predict that many low-income women will forego recommended breast and cervical cancer screening; diabetics will forego medications, and all low-income adults will face a greater likelihood of depression, catastrophic medical expenses, and death,” the study reported. “Disparities in access to care based on state of residence will increase. Because the federal government will pay 100 percent of increased costs associated with Medicaid expansion for the first three years (and 90 percent thereafter), opt-out states are also turning down billions of dollars of potential revenue, which might strengthen their local economy.”

The study's authors, Sam Dickman, David Himmelstein, Danny

McCormick, and Steffie Woolhandler, charted the number of uninsured who would miss out on treatment and estimated a range of potential early deaths, some 7,000 to 17,000 across the country. Many of the “no” states have large American Indian and Alaska Native populations. Roughly half the Indian health system is in states without Medicaid expansion.

Conservatives are already discounting the Health Affairs report. Chris Conover counters: “I can state with great confidence that the authors have grossly overestimated any mortality gains to be had from Medicaid expansion.”

But in neither study was there data or anecdotes about tribal communities with a bulletin board post warning patients that the clinic is out of money.

Mark Trahant is the 20th Atwood Chair at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He is a journalist, speaker and Twitter poet and is a citizen of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Let's get a return on American Indian Cultural Center and Museum investment



By KYLE D. LOVELESS
Okla. State Senator

I represent Mustang and south Oklahoma City. Part of the district I represent has the unfinished but half-built American Indian Cultural Center and Museum at the intersection of Interstates 40 and 35.

As an executive in a third-generation family business, one of the vital barometers on my family's business has always been return on investment, and making sure we kept our promises to customers.

Oklahoma needs to take this same attitude in regards to the finishing of the cultural center.

However, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get \$3.8 billion (over 20 years) in economic impact on a roughly \$130 million dollar investment. Let me repeat that: \$3.8 billion dollars.

Now, as a conservative Republican, I am almost always skeptical of economic projections, but even if the projections are only 50 percent correct, it is more than worth the investment. We would be leaving hundreds of millions on the table if we don't finish the project.

Every county is impacted by tourism, and tourism is the third largest segment of our economy. Cultural tourists stay longer and spend more money and than average tourists. The cultural center will be the hub for tourists who come from all over the United States to get a real experience here in Oklahoma.

Yes, the cultural center is expensive, but we will be able to, as a state, open a Smithsonian-style, cutting edge, multimedia experience that will convey the story of the 39 native American tribes that call Oklahoma home.

The state will operate it and will benefit from the project, as it is a state-owned facility.

Looking back, I am sure we could have found many ways to do this project differently, but leaving a project half finished because it is difficult or expensive is not what made our state great and is not conservative.

Every hurdle and criticism put upon the cultural center, it has exceeded. Two years ago, the board was promised a \$40 million match of state funds if \$40 million was raised privately. Check, that was done, and primarily with tribal and business interests. Second, a more business-minded oversight board was needed. Check, Clay Bennett, the owner of the Oklahoma City Thunder and other business-minded board members were added. Finally, an audit was requested to make sure the funds were properly accounted for. Check, State Auditor Gary Jones performed the audit, found no waste, fraud or abuse, and not just in the past year, but the past 10 years.

The educational and cultural value is the hardest to explain or quantify, but it is probably the longest lasting. The impact on our schoolchildren through textbooks will strengthen the fabric of our state with a realistic approach to our history and the role that Native Americans played in our state.

Oklahoma is known for many things, but primarily cowboys and Indians, and Oklahoma has done a wonderful job of utilizing our western heritage, but we have had a piece missing, Native American culture and history.

This month, we will vote on filing that missing piece, and the benefits will be for all Oklahomans.

Oklahoma long has had a self-image problem, but as we head into our second century of statehood, we are in a renaissance. We are in this together, and as a state, we can keep our commitments and fulfill a dream of years past recognizing our past or we can keep on the same path not meeting our potential. Let's finish it together.

Sen. Kyle D. Loveless, a Republican, is the state senator representing Dist. 45.

Indians and Jews: Building a holocaust museum together?



Notes from Indian Country
By TIM GIAGO
Nanwica Kciji
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As a child I rode a tricycle on the sidewalks of Wounded Knee with my playmate Joanne Gildersleeve, the daughter of Clive and Agnes. Agnes was an Ojibwe woman from Minnesota. They built the Wounded Knee Trading Post in 1931.

I often ran up and down the steps of the Wounded Knee Trading Post to visit with my father, Tim, who was a clerk and butcher in the store. Agnes often ruffled my hair and handed me a piece of hard rock candy. The village of Wounded Knee was a wonderful place to live in the 1930s.

A stone fireplace is all that remains of the village. It was burned to the ground during the criminal takeover in 1973. The Associated Press often ignorantly refers to it as an “uprising” and that could not be further from the truth. The villagers did not rise up and burn their own homes and destroy their own vehicles, and lose all of their worldly possessions. So I wish AP would wise up.

The American Indian Movement thought it would be symbolic to take over a peaceful village on the sovereign lands of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. They thought it would be heroic to take an elderly couple, tie them to chairs in their own house, and scare them nearly to death. When Jim Czywcznski, the owner of the Wounded Knee Trading Post, was finally allowed to return to his home all he found was ashes. Everything he owned had been stolen or demolished. His guns, his artwork, his family albums, and his furniture, all of his family's worldly possessions, all gone. And to top it off, AIM will be celebrating this debacle as

a great victory this month.

Last year Jim decided to put the land up for sale. He never rebuilt the trading post or the community because the tensions on the reservation were still very powerful and the different factions of the Lakota were still at war with each other for many years. He felt that if he rebuilt it would all be destroyed again. And so he waited 40 years before placing the property on the sales block.

Jim saw the property not as just a piece of worthless land on an Indian reservation, but he saw it as a historical property where one of the worst massacres in American history took place. When I walked on the property with him my mind drifted back to my childhood and I could almost hear the voices of the elderly Lakota seated on the benches of the trading post, smoking cigarettes or pipes, and speaking softly in the Lakota language about the politics, religion and events of the reservation. The Wounded Knee Trading Post was a gathering place that housed the U. S. Post Office, grocery store, and a small museum and arts and crafts store. It was where they came to buy their tobacco, groceries, and sell their beadwork and quillwork. It was a place where they came to visit friends and pick up on the latest rumors and gossip.

Coincidentally, I had visited the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D. C. a few years back and the impact that visit had on me lasted a very long time. How human beings could be so cruel to other human beings stopped me cold. The survivors of the Holocaust, the Jewish people, wanted to build a place where people from around the world could see and experience the horror of the concentration camps and the gas chambers. They wanted to remind the world that this horrific moment in history must never happen again.

When I look around me at the empty grounds at Wounded Knee this is what I visualized. Why not a Native American Holocaust Museum to remind America and the world of what happened to the indigenous people of the Americas? The Jews and the Indians were victims of a massive holocaust and in order to remember one it follows that one must remember

the other.

This, I thought, is an endeavor that Jews and Indians could accomplish together. The main obstacle to overcome is to convince the Descendants of the Survivors of Wounded Knee to see it as a tribute to the 300 men, women and children who were shot down like dogs on that fateful day of December 29, 1890. Belva Hollow Horn Emery is the spokesperson for this group. Just like the holocaust of World War II is not ancient history to the Jews, neither is the holocaust at Wounded Knee to the Lakota. My grandmother was working at a reservation school just 20 miles from Wounded Knee on that very day the Hotchkiss guns spit their bullets into the bodies of unarmed and defenseless men, women and children.

Surely there are generous donors out there who can see the wisdom of such a holocaust museum for the Native Americans. The museum would bring visitors from around the world and would provide jobs and opportunities to the people of a reservation where unemployment is at 80 percent. It would also serve as a place of education and prayer for all people.

I hope the United States Park Service and serious individuals will contact the head of Parks and Recreation for the Pine Ridge Reservation, Birgil Kills Straight at bkillsstraight@yahoo.com and get the ball rolling. Let's buy the land and move forward. Contact Jim Czywcznski at jimmyczy@aol.com the owner of the Wounded Knee land site.

The Native American Holocaust Museum can become a reality and it will just take a lot of people pulling together. As Elie Wiesel, the man who hunted down so many Nazi perpetrators said, “Indifference, to me, is the epitome of evil.”

Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota, is the author of Children Left Behind and Notes from Indian Country, Volumes I and II. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard with the Class of 1991 and can be reached at unitysodak1@knology.net



EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Class - through April 23, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 302, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

FEBRUARY 11
Oklahoma Indian Summer presents: Native Fashion, from Culture to Couture at Hillcrest Country Club, Bartlesville. Doors open at 6pm. Show starts at 7pm. Tickets \$25 - contact Lori Pannell 918-397-2125.

FEBRUARY 11
Creek Freedmen Presentation at the College of the Muscogee Nation, 1200 Hwy Loop 56, in Okmulgee, OK at 3:00pm, in room 103. Genealogist Ron Graham will present the history and family research of Freedmen in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. All welcome to attend. For more information call 405-488-4244.

FEBRUARY 14
Deposit due to play in Gamma Delta Pi's "Native Hoops" Men's & Women's Open Basketball Tournament Feb. 22 & 23. 10 Man Roster - Prizes, trophies, and t-shirts for 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place, All-Tournament and MVP Awards. More info contact: Maddie Habeck Maddie.e.habeck-1@ou.edu (918) 698-1256

FEBRUARY 15
Valentines Dance at Pawnee Oklahoma Wellness Center. All gourd dancers invited to come and enjoy the day. There will be a Valentine Contest. Bring your sweethearts, bring your gourds and bells, and come dance with the Pawnee elders. Starts at 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. supper at 5 6:00 to ? War Dance. More info email roubedeauxoney@aol.com

FEBRUARY 15
First meeting of Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative 4-H will be held at 10 am at the MFSI office, at the corner of 7th and Grand streets, downtown Okmulgee (next door to KOKL radio station), 100 E. 7th St., Suite 101. For more information, contact: Stephanie Berryhill at (918) 759-0817 or sberryhill@mvsokokefood.org or June Marshall at (918) 752-6139 or jmarshall@mvsokokefood.org or the MFSI office at (918) 756-5915

FEBRUARY 19
Specialty Crops Workshop - FREE PROGRAM - 9am-3pm at Otoe-Missouria Cultural Bldg. located south of the casino in the Otoe-Missouria Complex and garden. For more info or to RSVP, call Frankie Reid 580-723-4466, Ext. 120 or email freid@omtribe.org

FEBRUARY 21
Indian Taco \$7.00 for Taco & Dessert: Indian Fellowship Baptist Church 6130 S. 58th W. Ave Oakhurst, Okla: Deliveries 5 or more contact: Mary Kelley 918-636-8394.

FEBRUARY 21
Native American Veterans Benefit Enrollment Fair at Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center, 224 E Poplar St., Holdenville, 9am - 3pm. Info call 405-456-3876. Bring a copy of your DD form 214. Need a ride from Seminole or Wewoka? Call 405-303-2683

FEBRUARY 22-23
Gamma Delta Pi's "Native Hoops" Men's & Women's Open Basketball Tournament.

MARCH 1
Peoria Tribe Annual Elections. Vote for Chief and two seats on the Grievance Committee, each for four year terms. Polls open 7am - noon.

MARCH 15
8th Annual Pawnee Nation

College Powwow at Pawnee Nation Multipurpose Complex. Call 918-762-3343 for more information

MARCH 15
Honor Dance for Osage Nation Princess Autumn Griffin Williams, Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, 1449 W. Main, Pawhuska. Gourd Dancing starts at 2:30 pm. War Dancing at 7:30pm. More info call Margie Williams 918-639-0427.

APRIL 25-27
United Cherokee 16th Annual Festival and Native American Powwow, 9:00AM 'til 5:00PM at 3550 Creek Path Road, Guntersville, Alabama 35976 Contact: (256) 582-2333 or ucanonline@bellsouth.net

JUNE 6-8, 2014
Chilocco Indian School Class of 1964 50th Year Reunion - The Chilocco Indian School class of 1964 will be celebrating their 50th year reunion at the annual June 2014 Chilocco reunion. For contact and planning purposes, the 1964 Chilocco graduates are requested to contact Charley Johnson, Jr., P.O. Box 531, Bixby, OK 74008 telephone No. (918) 366-6158, e-mail address is johnson6158@olp.net or Lucian (Jake) Larney, 524 S. 2nd St., Okemah, OK 74859, telephone No. (405) 401-8881, e-mail jake74868@hotmail.com.

Advertise FREE in the Native Times? YES! Buy a weekly ad, get papers to sell. YOU keep the change.

To increase our circulation and local coverage, we are moving from a free to paid distribution. But we need your help. Your ad will help us provide MORE local news and MORE newspapers - and your sales can pay for your ad - and even a little extra.

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Two x One 1/4 = 3.375" x 1.25"
\$20 per week = 50 papers to sell

STARTER AD
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TOWN OR CITY
(918) 234-5678
MESSAGE
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One Column =
1.6" x 1.5"
\$15 per week =
40 papers to sell



SELL THE NATIVE
TIMES IN YOUR STORE
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SELL PAPERS AND
KEEP THE CHANGE!

Two x Two = 3.375" x 2"
\$25 per week = 60 papers to sell

JUMBO SIZE IT
Three Column
5.15" x 5" →
\$100 per week =
200 papers to sell OR
donate to your tribal
clinic and elder center
(we'll deliver for you)

THIS SIZE AD GETS
YOU 200 PAPERS
TO SELL OR
DONATE TO YOUR
FAVORITE CLINIC OR
COMMUNITY CENTER

Are you exempt from the Affordable Care Act because you are a citizen of a federally recognized tribe?

By AMY EDEN, LCDR
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Department of Health

Health Insurance coverage has not always been a familiar term within Indian Health Country. The unfamiliarity could be linked back to treaties made in 1787 between federally recognized Tribes and the United States Government. The treaties obligated the United States Government to provide health care services to Tribal members at no cost to the patient, in exchange for land that belonged to the Tribes. Due to this obligation, there was no apparent reason for an American Indian or Alaska Native to purchase any additional health insurance coverage. Over the years, Indian Health has significantly grown along with the rest of the health care industry; and unfortunately the U.S government has not always been able to provide the appropriate amount of funding that is needed. In 1998, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, P.L. 105-437, authorized the Indian Health Service, Tribal Health and Urban Indian Health, (I/T/U) the ability to bill and collect third party reimbursement for the services provided to the patient. This reimbursement from insurance companies has created a dependable, sustainable revenue stream, which is directly placed back into the Muscogee (Creek) Nation health care system; which helps pay for additional equipment and services for the patient population. Since ITU's have had the ability to bill, they highly encourage their patient load to apply for health care Insurance coverage. Although, before now, due to either the high financial expense or a pre-existing condition, the percentage of patients that carry health insurance coverage has been minimal in comparison to the patient population. The Affordable Health Care Act also known as Obama Care, is a law that is intended to reform the health care industry as we know it. It provides

the American population affordable options when purchasing a health care coverage plan. It also provides the American Indian/Alaska Native population the option of using a health care coverage plan rather than using the Contract Health Service; which could potentially run low on funding and not be available to cover health care service charges, which would mean that the charges would then become the patients' responsibility. There are special provisions for the American Indian and the Alaska Native population when they enroll in health insurance coverage through the marketplace, such as; No out of pocket costs like deductibles, copayments and coinsurance if the income is around \$70,650 for a family of 4 (\$88,320 in Alaska). Can enroll in Marketplace health insurance any month, not just during the yearly open enrollment period. Can begin and continue to receive health care services at any Indian Health Service including Tribal Health or Urban Indian Health Facilities. Can get services from any providers listed on the Marketplace Insurance Plan. The Affordable Health Care coverage plans can be found on a web based portal called the Marketplace. There are four ways to apply for a Marketplace health care coverage; On-line at www.healthcare.gov Telephone at 1-800-318-2596; available 24 hours a day 7 days a week Can download and print the application at www.healthcare.gov and mail to: Health Insurance Marketplace Dept. of Health and Human Services 465 Industrial Blvd. London, KY 40750-0001 Although the Affordable Health Care Act provides affordable health care coverage, there are still some that prefer not to enroll into a health care coverage. For the American Indian/Alaska Native population there is an

exemption from having to obtain health care coverage, it is based upon Tribal citizenship. There are two ways that a Federally Recognized American Indian can file for exemption. Claim the exemptions when you fill out your 2014 federal tax return, which is due by April 15, 2015 (make sure you have your CDIB or your Tribal Citizenship Card available, they need the information from one or the other) Fill out an exemption application in the Health Insurance Marketplace (if you would like to fill this application out, you can download it from <http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/tribal-exemption.pdf>, or you can call Amy Eden at (918)756-4333 ext. 315 and request an application be mailed to you) The State Recognized American Indian population is required to file for this exemption only by filling out the application; they do not have the option of waiting until they file their 2014 Income Taxes. If there is anyone that would like assistance with filling out the exemption application or just have any questions in general, you can contact any of the Patient Benefit Coordinators at any of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation health facilities. You can also contact LCDR Amy Eden at (918)756-4333 ext. 315. If you would like someone to assist you in person, the Muscogee Creek Nation has Patient Benefit Coordinators to assist at the following locations:

Sapulpa Indian Health Center	(918)224-9314
Eufaula Indian Health Center	(918)689-2547
Koweta Indian Health Center	(918)279-3200
Creek Nation Community Hospital	(918)623-1424
Okmulgee Indian Health Center	(918)758-1944

Seminole Native Learning Center awarded HUD funding

In 2013, NLC completed 5 on-site technical assistance visits to tribes, hosted three conferences and 29 interactive webinar trainings - 90 sessions on topics unique to tribal housing and strengthening tribal communities.

Native Learning Center Media Release

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. – The Native Learning Center (NLC), a Seminole Tribe of Florida program dedicated to the development of cultural and quality of life skills for all Native and Indigenous people, is pleased to be named the only Tribe authorized to receive a \$700,000 Cooperative Agreement award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide training and technical assistance to Tribes and Tribal housing authorities. The NLC will work directly with federally recognized Indian Tribes that receive HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) to provide training and technical assistance related to their affordable housing plans. For example, funds may be used to conduct educational conferences for multiple Tribes on specific topics such as energy-efficient/sustainable construction, or to provide on-site, one-on-one consultation to Tribes to resolve challenges that prevent them from creating sustainable, affordable housing for their members. "We are very grateful for this funding from HUD and the positive impact it will have on tribes that receive HUD's IHBG funding. We believe that providing training and technical assistance for Tribes will yield results that will help strengthen our communities in Indian Country," – Georgette Palmer Smith, (Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma/Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) Executive Director of the Native Learning Center. The NLC is one of five organizations awarded training and technical assistance funding that total \$4.5 million dollars. The four other recipients are: Association of Alaskan Housing Authorities, Rural Community Assistance Corporations, First Nations Development Institute, and FirstPic, Inc. HUD will administer and coordinate the delivery of training and technical assistance services with the awardees; however, the details on how Tribes can access the services have not yet been disclosed. In 2013, NLC completed 5 on-site technical assistance visits to tribes. The NLC also hosted three conferences and 29 interactive webinar trainings that totaled 90 sessions on topics unique to tribal housing and strengthening tribal communities. Over 950 tribal professionals and 69 tribes were served throughout Indian Country. The NLC continues to offer training and technical services within its five focus areas (Housing Strategies, Financial Wellness, Tribal Government, Grant Education, and Celebrating Culture & Language) under its current IHBG grant through HUD's Office of Native American Programs. To learn more about the NLC's Training and Technical Assistance program, visit www.hud.gov or www.nativelearningcenter.com.

EVERY 17 SECONDS

someone in the US is diagnosed with diabetes.





NEARLY 1 OUT OF 6

AMERICAN INDIANS/ALASKA NATIVES HAS DIABETES.



COMMON MYTHS



Diabetes doesn't run in my family, so I'm safe.



Diabetes is caused by eating too much sugar.



People with diabetes need to follow a special diet.

THE FACTS



Family history is only one of several risk factors for type 2 diabetes.



Type 2 is caused by genetics and lifestyle factors. Being overweight increases your risk for developing type 2, and a diet high in calories from any source contributes to weight gain. Research has shown that sugary drinks are linked to type 2 diabetes.



People with diabetes benefit from the same healthy diet that is good for everyone else: plenty of whole grains and fruits and vegetables, with a limited amount of fat and refined sugar.

People diagnosed with diabetes, aged 20 years or older.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LIVING WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES AT DIABETES.ORG/TYPE2PROGRAM

1-800-DIABETES (342-2383)



American Diabetes Association®

Student launches ‘Bison: My Way!’ cookbook

BROOKINGS, S.D. – At an early age, Kristin Olson revealed a love for cooking.

She remembers sitting on the counter by her grandma Anna Marie, mixing up cookies and punching down bread dough—just the beginning of her culinary calling.

That calling has provided “Bison: My Way!”—a cookbook filled with unique bison recipes.

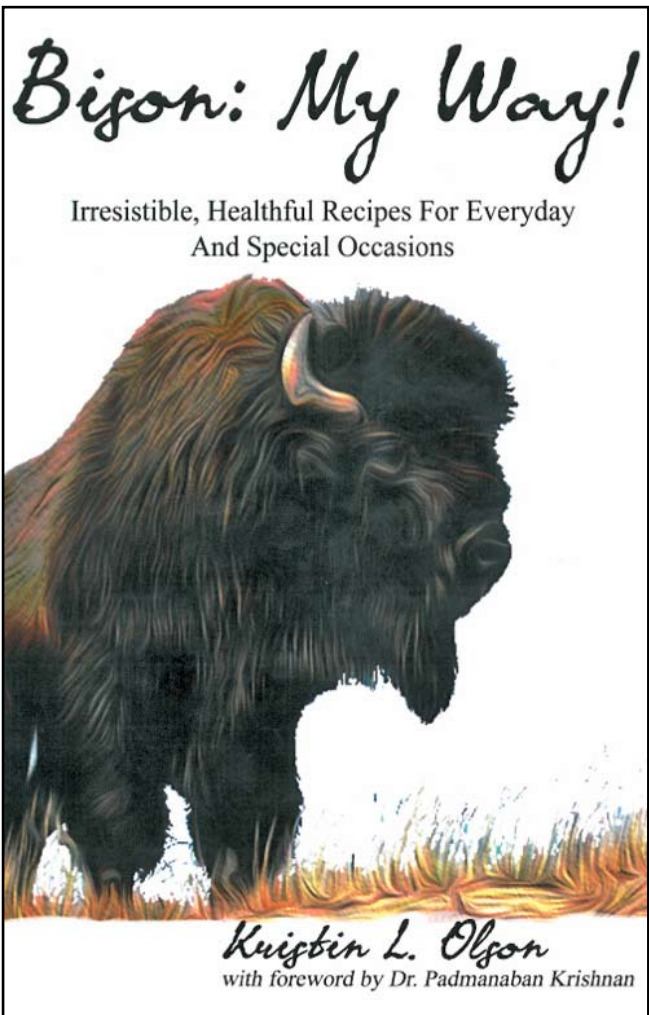
It contains 25 recipes featuring bison as the main protein in entrees, salads, soups and stews. Recipes for side dishes and Olson’s famous berry sauces are also included. The cookbook provides easy-to-reproduce meals for cooks with skills ranging from beginner to expert.

“Open the pages of the cookbook and discover Kristin’s creativity with nutritional know-how as she shows how to enhance the value of this true American food,” said Padmanaban Krishnan, professor for the department of health and nutritional sciences, and project mentor for the cookbook.

The cookbook was a project partly funded by Olson’s Griffith Honors Scholarship. Don Lake and Jim Stone from the Intertribal Bison Council donated bison meat.

Olson had a couple goals when putting her cookbook together: incorporate healthy vegetables and spices within the bison recipes, and make the recipes kid- and family-friendly.

“It’s so important to teach cooking in the family,” said Olson. “If parents teach the basic cooking skills when children are young, there’s more room for creativity in the kitchen in the future.”



PADMANABAN KRISHNAN | COURTESY UNIVERSITY SOUTH DAKOTA
Student Kristin L. Olson’s cookbook, ‘Bison: My Way!’

Olson said bison intimidates many home cooks only because they are unfamiliar with it as a recipe ingredient. She prefers cooking with bison because it is leaner than beef, but still has all the flavor.

Both Olson and Krishnan agreed that the most critical tip for beginner bison cooks is preparing the meat with patience and care.

Scrumpuous Specialties

Her cookbook stands apart from a handful of other bison cookbooks on the market in that it lists the nutrition information for every dish—calories, fat, saturated fat, cholesterol,

sodium, carbohydrates, fiber and protein. Each page features a brief personal connection to the dish, or suggests tasty pairings.

All of the recipes in Olson’s cookbook went through a taste test, where students and faculty judged the appearance, flavor, texture, aroma and overall acceptability.

“Osso Bucco” requires the most patience to cook, while bison burgers and tacos are the simplest, according to Olson.

Olson’s “Bison Tenderloin” almost always wins taste-tests because of its mild flavor and moist texture. “I cook it on higher heat for

a shorter amount of time,” said Olson. “I use an internal thermometer and bake it to 138 degrees Fahrenheit. Oftentimes people overcook the tenderloin because of how lean it is.”

She recommends accompanying the tenderloin with her blueberry barbecue sauce for added flavor and nutrition. “You will be eager to prepare the unique sauces and accompaniments Kristin created for synergy of taste and flavor,” said Krishnan.

Olson buys bison at the local grocery store, but said finding it in most small-town grocery stores isn’t common. “I know Hy-Vee keeps ground bison and patties on hand in the freezer section, but I pre-order certain cuts, like the tenderloin,” Olson said. “It usually takes about a week to get in the special order.”

Bison costs more than beef, averaging around \$7 to \$8 a pound for 93 percent meat, 7 percent fat.

Olson said, for her, it’s

worth the extra money.

Making a profit is not a priority with “Bison: My Way!” “This cookbook will hopefully sell itself,” said Krishnan. “We want people to gain interest in cooking with bison because of its health benefits.”

Before bison

Olson grew up in Rapid City, and after graduating high school she sharpened her cooking skills while serving in the U.S. Army as a food service specialist. After military service, Olson graduated from the Texas Culinary Academy in Austin, Texas, and went on to work as a personal chef.

Her desire to learn more about food nutrition led her to SDSU, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in dietetics. She expects to graduate in May.

Olson said furthering her education has been worthwhile, and she plans to continue her education after earning her undergrad

degree.

She applied to graduate school at SDSU and will work with dietetics professor Kendra Kattelmann as part of a dietetics internship.

After grad school, Olson hopes to combine her culinary and dietetics knowledge and work as a registered dietician. She wants to help others find the confidence to cook healthy meals for themselves and their families.

So far, no plans are in the works for another cookbook, but Olson said it’s not entirely out of the equation. “I may try to continue on with a larger cookbook or in some way incorporate the recipe and research into a larger project as a graduate student,” said Olson.

Buy the cookbook

“Bison: My Way!” can be purchased for \$5 by contacting Krishnan or Olson via email at bisonmyway@icloud.com or by calling 605-688-4040.



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 20 + ISSUE 07

FEBRUARY 17-21, 2014

City moving to collect sales tax from tribally owned retailers

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

SHAWNEE, Okla. – An Oklahoma town is asking its local tribal businesses to start making mandatory contributions to its sales tax coffers.

On Feb. 4, Shawnee mayor Wes Mainord sent letters to the leaders of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the

Kickapoo Tribe and Sac and Fox Tribe requesting meetings later this month to discuss collecting city sales tax revenues generated by purchases made by non-Natives at tribally-owned stores located within the city's tax base. Part of the 8.5 percent sales tax on purchases made in Shawnee is a 3 percent tax assessed by the city.

“While we welcome economic development in our community and intend to work with you to increase

the standard of living of our shared standard of living in Pottawatomie County, the city is concerned about the decrease in its sales tax revenues and thus its ability to provide its citizens, including many members of the tribal nations you lead with necessary services,” Mainord wrote. “The city has no choice but to take steps to secure its sales tax revenues for sales within the city limits.”

Mainord has requested that the

four tribes either establish a monthly payment in lieu of taxes arrangement or have their businesses report to the city the same way that non-Native retail outlets report to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. As per the U.S. Supreme Court's 1991 ruling in Oklahoma Tax Commission v. Citizen Band of Potawatomi Indians, tribes do not have to remit state sales taxes on purchases made by



See TAXES on Page 5 Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett”

OUR SOVEREIGN RIGHTS



COURTESY NORTHWEST INDIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION
Billy Frank Jr. rallied celebrities, including actors Jane Fonda and Marlon Brando, to the tribal cause during the Indian Fish Wars of the 1960s and '70s.

Judge’s decision has ripple effects felt 40 years later

■ George Hugo Boldt’s ruling changed the empty concept of “tribal sovereignty” into something that needed to be taken seriously – or else. And it transformed the way state and tribal governments interact.

By ROB CARSON
The News Tribune

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) – George Hugo Boldt was not a man anyone would mistake for a revolutionary. He was a bespectacled and conservative Republican, a former Army officer who grew up in Montana and kept his close-sheared haircut intact throughout the turbulent ‘60s and beyond.

Among his many conservative credentials, Boldt was known as the federal judge who in 1970 held a group of Vietnam War protesters called the Seattle Seven in contempt of court and sentenced them to prison for six months. The only thing about Boldt that could be considered radical was his fondness for plaid sports jackets and bow ties. And yet. The court ruling Boldt handed down 40 years ago last week is a decision now recognized as one of the most sweeping documents of economic and social reform in Pacific Northwest history. The central question in United States v. Washington concerned tribal fishing rights, but ripples from the decision went far and wide. It changed the empty concept of “tribal sovereignty” into something

that needed to be taken seriously – or else. And it transformed the way state and tribal governments interact. For Washington Indian tribes, it marked the beginning of a renaissance, fueled by money, power and pride. For four decades, the Boldt Decision has shaped political issues in Washington, from those that are purely tribal-based – gambling, tribal sales of cigarettes and gasoline, and tribal law enforcement, for example – to broadly based issues that involve environmental regulation and land use throughout the state. The decision had consequences for native tribes not only in Western Washington but also throughout the United States – and to some extent for indigenous people around the world.

See DECISION on Page 3

Feds agree to pay full contract costs to tribes

NCAI Media Release

WASHINGTON – For the first time in decades, tribal nations will receive full payment on contracts signed with the federal government. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) have submitted plans to pay their 2014 contracts with tribes in full. Many issues face Indian Country but one of the most far-reaching is the fiduciary relationship between tribal nations and the federal government. In setting out plans to pay their contract support cost requirements in

full, the federal government will begin to treat tribal nations with the respect and honor due to them. Under the Indian Self-Determination Act, the United States enters into inter-governmental contracts with tribes under which tribes administer federal programs for the benefit of tribal members. The Indian Self-Determination Act represents the cornerstone of this nation's federal policy toward tribes for more than a third of a century and represents one of the most successful policy eras

See FEDS on Page 5



WWW.POKERTRIBES.COM
One of the two claimant Cheyenne and Arapaho governors has been authorized to investigate the tribe's expenses associated with the PokerTribes website.

Both new C&A governments agree: Get out of online gambling website

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

EL RENO, Okla. – Although two governments still claim to be the legitimate authority of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the two new governors are in agreement over one thing: the tribes are getting out of online gaming. At a special Tribal Council meeting Saturday at Redlands Community College, more

than 60 Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens voted to authorize the Darrell Flyingman administration to bring in third-party contractors to investigate the tribes' expenses associated with PokerTribes.com and attempt to recover the \$9.5 million in tribal funds spent on the website. The council also gave Flyingman's administration permission to file charges against the

See C&A on Page 4

House passes bill to clear fishing convictions

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) – American Indian tribal citizens arrested while exercising their treaty fishing rights before 1975 would get the chance to clear their criminal records under a measure passed by the House Thursday. House Bill 2080, which

passed by a vote of 92-6, would allow those tribal citizens to apply to the sentencing court to expunge their misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony convictions. Family members and tribal officials could also seek a vacated criminal record on behalf of

a deceased person. The court would have the discretion to vacate the conviction, unless certain conditions apply, such as if the person was convicted for a violent crime or crime against a person. “We have a responsibility to try and make things right,” said the bill's prime

sponsor Rep. David Sawyer, D-Tacoma. “It simply allows tribal members to apply to have those convictions vacated so they can live their lives in dignity. It's essentially an apology as well.” Tribal members and others were roughed up, harassed and arrested in the 1960s and

1970s while asserting their right to fish for salmon off-reservation under treaties signed with the federal government more than 100 years before. At the time, however, those acts violated Washington state regulations, and there were raids by game wardens and other clashes

with police. The Northwest fish-ins known as the “Fish Wars” were modeled after civil rights movement sit-ins and were part of larger demonstrations to assert American Indian rights nationwide. The bill now heads to the Senate.



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US attorney from North Dakota testifies on Indian prisoner report

FARGO, N.D. (AP) – North Dakota’s top federal prosecutor told state lawmakers Wednesday that Indian reservations in the state should include halfway houses for people who return home after serving prison sentences.

During an appearance in front of the Senate Committee on Indiana Affairs, U.S. Attorney Timothy Purdon said federal law enforcement officials should figure out a way to bring post-release services to the reservations. About 95 percent of Native Americans in North Dakota who are convicted in federal court return to the reservations, where they often get in trouble again.

“One of the challenges we

have is that we don’t have halfway house facilities where inmates can do their last six months of custody on the reservations,” Purdon said. “They’re doing these halfway house stints 100 miles from their home.”

Purdon told senators about Standing Rock Indian Reservation client he represented when he was a public defender. Seven years after the man was sentenced to prison, Purdon saw him in a Bismarck halfway house and he told the attorney he was doing well. He had a job and a sponsor for his Alcoholics Anonymous group.

“When his six months were up at the halfway house, he got in the car and went back to Standing Rock,”

Purdon said. “Three months later I got a call that said his probation is being revoked and he’s being sent back to federal prison. I asked him what happened and he said, ‘I got back to Standing Rock: no AA group, no sponsor.’”

Purdon said that while the Department of Justice can’t do much about building those facilities, re-entry is high on Attorney General Eric Holder’s agenda.

“In North Dakota, I’m working closely with the court and probation office to see how we can work together to provide some sort of support for those folks coming back,” Purdon said.

Purdon was one of several officials asked to testify Wednesday on a new report

entitled “A Roadmap For Making Native America Safer.” The study shows that Native youth experience violent crime at rates up to 10 times the national average.

North Dakota Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, a member of the committee, asked Purdon about expanding the federal court presence on reservations. Purdon noted one wide-ranging case, Operation Prairie Thunder, where the federal magistrate came to Standing Rock and held court on the basketball court in the school gymnasium.

“We as U.S. attorneys need to be working with the courts to try and do more of that sort of thing, of bringing the federal court and making it relevant to Fort Yates or

Belcourt,” Purdon said.

Heitkamp said lawmakers would continue to look at locating courts where people live.

“I think we should create an expectation in the Congress that, look, we understand you like your federal courthouses and that you’ve got a lot of security,” she said. “But you also have an obligation here, especially related to major crimes, when you bring it and people can see that there’s consequences, that has an effect, too.”

Purdon touted federal programs for American Indian youths in the Dakotas that are based upon getting work done on the reservations.

DECISION

Continued from Page 1

“People from New Zealand and Australia come to ask us, ‘How did you do this?’ “ said Billy Frank Jr., a Nisqually fisherman made famous by the case. “How did you get the United States government to be on your side?”

The answer, said University of Washington fisheries professor Richard Whitney, who recently appeared with Frank for a filmed chat about the Boldt Decision in its 40th year, is that there was nothing radical about the ruling.

It was, in fact, a conservative reading, he said, a strict law-and-order interpretation entirely in keeping with Boldt’s character and his view of the law.

“It was one of the most significant decisions of the century,” Whitney said. “Not just because of the fishing situation, but because of the fact that a federal judge would look at the law and say, this is what the law requires, and everybody has to live up to it. Not just the tribes and not just the state, but everybody.”

“That principle – that we are going to abide by the law – is what keeps this country alive,” Whitney said.

Boldt’s tough reaction to the Seattle Seven – plus the fact he himself was a sport fisherman – gave tribes serious misgivings when it was announced in 1970 that he would be the judge to preside over the high-profile fishing case.

Hank Adams, who had served as the tribes’ unofficial tactician and political organizer through most of the 1960s, considered trying to have Boldt removed, but then thought better of it.

An Assiniboine-Sioux, Adams played a key role in elevating the fishing dispute on the Nisqually and Puyallup rivers to the national stage.

For years, state fisheries managers had restricted net fishing on Puget Sound rivers at certain times of the year to protect salmon runs. Indian fishermen routinely ignored the restrictions, arguing they had a treaty right to fish whenever and however they pleased. And they got arrested.

Beginning in 1964, Adams, Frank, Ramona Bennett and other Indian activists began turning the arrests into media events, organizing rallies and inviting Marlon Brando, Jane Fonda, Dick Gregory and other celebrities to the riverbanks to help sway public opinion.

The demonstrations sometimes

erupted into brawls, with television cameras capturing the action for the national news.

“The timing was everything,” Bennett said Wednesday at a celebration of the Boldt Decision held at the Squaxin Island Tribe’s casino complex. “It was in the middle of the peace movement and the civil rights movement.”

“There was a change going on,” she said, “and we got to be part of that change.”

At the anniversary celebration – attended by more than 1,000 tribal members from across the state – Bennett, Frank and Adams regaled the crowd with reminiscences of the Fish Wars, describing armed confrontations with police, beatings and repeated jailings.

“We got dragged out of the river and into the jail,” Frank said. “We were willing to die for these rights, and we still are.”

In 1970, the federal government filed United States v. Washington on behalf of the tribes, arguing the state was denying tribes rights guaranteed in treaties signed in the 1850s.

The treaties confined the tribes to reservations but contained a phrase that became critical at trial: “The right of taking fish, at all usual and accustomed grounds and stations, is further secured to said Indians, in common with all citizens of the territory.”

The 203-page decision Boldt delivered Feb. 12, 1974, is complex, but the part most shocking at the time was his formula for deciding how many of the salmon and steelhead should go to the tribes and how many to non-Indians.

Boldt interpreted the words “in common with” to mean the tribes were entitled to up to 50 percent of the harvestable catch, an almost inconceivable change considering tribal members made up less than 1 percent of the state population and non-Indian fishermen routinely were taking 95 percent of the fish.

It was hard to tell who was more stunned by Boldt’s ruling: the state or the tribes. Attorneys representing the tribes had floated the idea that the phrase “in common with” could mean 50 percent, but even they thought it was a stretch.

For thousands of sport and commercial fishermen, the ruling was a bombshell. It cut their catch in half and put most out of business.

Boldt was mocked on bumper stickers – “Can Judge Boldt, not Salmon,” “A dead Boldt is a good Boldt.” – and was hanged in effigy in front of federal courthouses.

Forty years later it is difficult to imagine the extent of the outrage and indignation the Boldt Decision caused.

Fawn Sharp, currently president of the Quinault Indian Nation on the Olympic Peninsula, had barely learned to walk when Boldt handed down his ruling.

Billy Frank Jr., left, greets old friends during the 40th anniversary celebration of the Boldt Decision on Wednesday near Shelton. (Dean J. Koepfler, staff photographer).

She doesn’t remember the day of the decision, but she said she would never forget the anger and resentment she felt from white people for years afterward. Sharp recalls being afraid to go to the white fishing town of Westport because Indians had their tires slashed there.

“Westport was like a no-no place,” she said. “There was a lot of fear.”

Boldt also ruled that tribes had the right to regulate the fishing of their members, independent of state laws and regulations. That, in the eyes of many non-Indians, was an unacceptable and un-American position because it granted a small portion of the population “special rights” over others.

“You can’t have superior rights,” said Jack Metcalf, a state senator at the time and later a U.S. representative. “You can’t have a hereditary aristocracy that has more rights than other people.”

Many nonnative fishermen refused to obey federal bans on fishing, and the state refused to enforce them. Slade Gorton, the Washington State attorney general at the time, vowed to appeal the ruling (which he did without success) to make sure it was vacated.

James Johnson, then an assistant attorney general and now a member of the Washington State Supreme Court, called Boldt’s decision “an aberration” and said he was confident it would be overturned.

The state’s resistance led the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to compare Washington with states in the Deep South that refused to abide by federally mandated desegregation.

“Except for some segregation cases, the district court has faced the most concerted official and private efforts to frustrate a decree of a federal court witnessed in this century,” appellate court justices said of the Boldt Decision.

The irony of the Boldt Decision is that the 50/50 allocation formula, which appeared to be the most revolutionary aspect, turned out to be largely meaningless, at least as it

related to salmon.

A handful of well-financed Indian fishermen profited in the years immediately following the ruling, but by then the salmon fishery in Puget Sound was so nearly destroyed by development and logging there was little left to fight over. The tribes’ annual harvest is lower now than in 1974.

More significant was the extent to which Boldt’s decision reinforced the notion of tribal sovereignty and elevated the legal status of the treaties.

Boldt said the state and tribes should “co-manage” fishing resources off the reservations. Further readings of the case established that the state has an obligation to protect fish habitat, to ensure the tribes’ rights to fish in perpetuity.

That created a powerful legal incentive to protect the environment and include tribes in land-use decisions.

The Boldt Decision and its allocation formula were extended to include shellfish, including the multimillion-dollar geoduck harvest.

The legal status it gave the treaties and the concept of tribal sovereignty figured prominently in the Puyallup Land Claims Settlement and the state’s accords, which made possible the tribes’ highly profitable gaming operations.

As the tribes celebrate the anniversary of the Boldt Decision this week, yet another federal court sub-proceeding is in the news – one that could cost the state an estimated \$1.9 billion.

The treaty tribes argued that hundreds of culverts installed at road crossings by the state block fish from passing through them and therefore reduce the amount of harvest available to the tribes. Last year, a federal court judge gave the state a 17-year deadline to fix the fish-blocking culverts.

“We prefer to collaborate with the state,” said Frank, head of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission since it was founded immediately after Boldt. “However, the state’s unwillingness to work together and solve the problems of these salmon-blocking culverts in a timely manner left us with no alternative except the courts.”

“The fight never stops,” Frank said. “You fight for your culture, your way of life.”

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Montana senator named Indian Affairs chairman

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – Montana Sen. Jon Tester is the new chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, while newly appointed Sen. John Walsh has been named to four committees.

Tester has served on the Indian Affairs Committee for seven years and takes over for former chairman Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington, who chaired her final committee hearing Wednesday. Tester says he'll address many issues affecting Indian

Country but will focus on improving tribal schools and colleges.

Walsh was sworn in Tuesday to finish former Sen. Max Baucus' term. He announced Thursday that he was appointed to the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee; the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; the Rules and Administration Committee and the Special Committee on Aging.

Both Tester and Walsh are Democrats.



Sen. Jon Tester

Court dismisses C&A suit against bank over frozen funds

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

DENVER – On Tuesday, a three-judge panel with the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's decision to dismiss a lawsuit filed by a former Cheyenne and Arapaho claimant government.

In May 2012, former claimant governor Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell filed a lawsuit against Custer County District Court judge Doug Haught and the First Bank and Trust in Clinton, Okla., after the bank attempted to close out the tribes' account due to the ongoing internal leadership dispute. The bank

is not a tribally-owned business and although it is located within the tribes' jurisdictional area, it is not on trust property.

To date, more than \$6.1 million in tribal assets remain under court control pending a separate appeal. The last district court hearing on the frozen funds was in November 2012 when Haught denied an application from the faction based out of El Reno, Okla., for partial access to funds.

In its decision, the 10th Circuit Court upheld the Western District of Oklahoma's stance that the tribes' sovereign immunity and constitutional rights were not violated by Haught's decision to place the

account under the district court's administration.

"In instituting the freeze, First Bank acted in its capacity as a private business; it obtained no significant aid from Judge Haught, nor was its conduct chargeable to the state," Judge Carlos Lucero wrote. "Judge Haught's assumption of supervision over the accounts did not transform First Bank's freeze into state action. Thus, even if the plaintiffs, in the capacity of depositors, were 'persons' who could sue First Bank...they could not maintain a claim regarding the freeze."

C&A

Continued from Page 1

individuals involved in the purchase and administration of the website if necessary.

The other claimant government, led by Rollin "Eddie" Hamilton and Cornell Sankey, has said it will not recognize Saturday's council meeting or its results as legitimate. Signed public notices to that effect were posted online and at the tribes' complex in Concho, Okla.

In an open letter published in the Feb. 1 edition of the tribes' newspaper, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune, Hamilton made known the decision to sever ties with the site. As of Sunday morning, PokerTribes.com still has a "Coming Soon" banner and is labeled as an enterprise of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

The Hamilton/Sankey administration also announced earlier this month that it is dropping the tribes' lawsuit against the Department of the Interior to get PokerTribes.com off of the ground. Filed in December in the Western District of Oklahoma, the lawsuit is still listed as active in

the court's online filing system, but does not have any hearings scheduled.

A joint venture between the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and Universal Entertainment Group, PokerTribes.com was launched in June 2012. Originally billed as a free social networking site, PokerTribes and its corresponding mobile applications included explicit references to financial transactions, including a "Buy credits" button on its home page and content in its terms of service page about refunds for inactive accounts.

The site's official public launch was blocked last year in part due to questions of whether it violated the tribes' gaming compact with the state of Oklahoma, prompting former governor Janice Prairie Chief-Boswell to sign an amended gaming agreement with the state of Oklahoma that would grant the state a portion of the proceeds if the site only allowed financial transactions with international patrons. However, the DOI refused to recognize the new gaming compact, thus prompting the tribes' lawsuit.

Universal Entertainment Group did not respond to requests for comment.

COMMENTARY

ACA assistance for federally-recognized tribal citizens

By CARA COWAN WATTS

Are you confused about what to do with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and a citizen of a Federally-recognized Tribe or receive services from IHS or a Tribal Clinic?

If you are like me and have begun gathering everything you need for 2013 taxes, you should be planning on filing for the new requirements concerning the ACA.

For personal assistance, go to your local Cherokee Nation Health Care Facility such as Vinita, Salina, Bartlesville, Nowata, Jay, Stilwell, Muskogee and Sallisaw Clinics as well as Tahlequah Hastings Hospital all ran by the Cherokee Nation. Ask to speak with by phone or make an appointment with the facility's Patient Benefit Coordinator concerning the ACA.

Claremore Indian Health Service (IHS) Hospital is ran by the Federal government. Benefit Coordinators keep a table in the main lobby stocked with pamphlets and brochures as well as educate clinic patients. Every quarter, Claremore IHS holds patient fares to promote Veteran Affairs, ACA, SoonerCare and Medicare Part D. Claremore IHS has 6 Certified Application Counselors to assist patients and answer questions. For more information, contact IHS Benefit Coordinators Gloria Smith at (918) 342-6607 or Sheila Dishno (918) 342-6240.

For the online American Indian Exemption Form, go to <https://www.healthcare.gov/exemptions/>.

For additional American Indian information on the ACA, go to tribalhealthcare.org or nativeexchange.org.

At some point, both Claremore IHS and Cherokee Nation Health Services (CNHS) facilities may be able to print a letter off for you from patient records which document your IRS Exemption from ACA.

If your goal is actual health coverage, I recommend you sign up for the ACA and get insurance as IHS nor CNHS guarantee your health care will be funded and are almost always short on funds and services.

If you have questions, issues or concerns about the Cherokee Nation government, please email me at cara@caracowan.com or write me at P.O. Box 2922, Claremore, OK 74018.

For daily news and event notices, ask to be added to my Cherokee Nation News and Events email listserv. You can, also, find me on Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, LinkedIn, Google+ and Twitter. Lee Keener is at lee-keener@cherokee.org.

To contact the Tribe, call (918) 453-5000. The operator will connect you with the appropriate department. Tribal programs and services are administered by the Chief's staff at the Tribal Complex. Tribal hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Save a trip to Tahlequah by using the Tribes Internet tools at www.cherokee.org. Almost all applications are available online to print from home.

Cara Cowan Watts is an elected Tribal legislator within the Cherokee Nation for portions of Rogers and Tulsa Counties.

Wild Turkey & American Spirits: Remembering writer Robert J. Conley

By LISA SNELL

He drank his Wild Turkey "unmolested" (no ice or additives) and preferred his cigarettes the same way – smoking the chemical and additive free American Spirit brand. He always had a pack tucked into the pocket of his snap up plaid western shirt that he wore neatly tucked in to his Wrangler jeans. A pair of worn cowboy boots peeped out from the hems of those neatly pressed jeans - jeans that were kept in place by a set of ever present suspenders. A cowboy hat was usually set upon his brow, shading his lined and bespectacled face.

He was Robert J. Conley, Cherokee author, when we first met. He soon became "uncle Robert" and one of my favorite people after I married his nephew. At our wedding reception we left a small bottle of Wild Turkey next to Robert's seat, much to his wife Evelyn's dismay. It was a little joke on her and one that delighted Robert. Robert was always up for a drink, a joke and a laugh – even if the joke and laugh was at his expense.

His orneriness often elicited exasperated sighs from Evelyn and much laughter around the dinner table as he and my husband would tell stories on each other.

Robert walked on this morning, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014. There won't be any

new tales to tell or jokes to be made. We are left with the happy memories in our hearts and a shelf full of books with "By Robert J. Conley" or merely "CONLEY" printed along the spines. My favorite however, is "Cherokee Thoughts: Honest and Uncensored." It's a collection of essays that take on politics, life, culture, history and what it means to be a Cherokee. His wit is evident throughout and when you finish reading, you are left knowing who Robert was. What made him laugh, what made him angry, and what inspired him.

His first novel, "Back to Malachi," was published in 1986. Since then, he had more than 70 books published, a collection of short stories, several reprints, and many books on tape. Robert also wrote the novelization of a screenplay, "Geronimo: An American Legend."

Robert was a member of the Western Writers of America and won two Spur awards for his novels "Nickajack" and "The Dark Island." He won another Spur award for his short story "Yellow Bird: An Imaginary Autobiography," published in "The Witch of Goingsnake." In 1997, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Professional Writers Hall of Fame.

Do na da' go hv i, uncle Robert. We will see each other again. I'll bring the Wild Turkey.

Lisa Snell is the publisher and editor of the Native American Times.

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FEDS

Continued from Page 1

for tribes in US history.

Yet, time and time again, BIA and IHS have failed to pay the contract support costs in full while expecting the programs to be fulfilled completely. This cycle of negotiating contracts and then refusing to pay the agreed upon amount has prevented tribes from

achieving self-determination and progress towards self-sufficiency. When Indian contract and self-governance compact contract support costs are short funded, tribes are actually penalized for exercising their self-determination rights, by being compelled to reduce program operations to cover these unavoidable costs.

While this recent development is a positive step for future contracts, federal agencies must also

speed up the settlement of past claims. Agencies owe tribal nations millions of dollars in unpaid contract support costs – money that is critical for tribes to achieve full self-determination.

The National Congress of American Indians is committed to working with tribal nations and the federal government to ensure full payment of future contracts and to resolve the millions of dollars of debt owed to tribes.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1

tribal citizens on tribally-owned businesses located on reservations or trust land. However, the decision does not say anything about taxes levied by county or municipal governments, and many other tribal retail outlets across Oklahoma – including those run by the state's largest tribe, the Cherokee Nation – do not assess city sales taxes on tangible purchases.

The letter came after a unanimous vote by the Shawnee City Commission in December 2013 to penalize any delinquent or fraudulent sales tax reports submitted by retailers within the community.

“The City Commission has discussed this matter in the context of collecting sales tax from all of our retail businesses,” Shawnee City Manager Brian McDougal said via email. “The tribal enterprises have grown and ventured into the retail arena, and as such since they are also retailers in the city we are requesting they remit sales tax to the city, just as we are requesting non-tribal entities to collect and remit it.”

Attempts to confirm declining sales tax revenue with the city were unsuccessful. According to commission meeting minutes published on the city's website, sales tax revenues have increased five of the last six fiscal years, with the lone exception being 2009-2010. Sales tax revenue accounts for about 10 percent of the city's budget.

The largest of the four tribes involved, Citizen Potawatomi Nation has a discount grocery store, a gift shop, a casino and

two convenience stores that would potentially be impacted if the tribe is forced to start making payments to the City of Shawnee. One of the largest employers in Pottawatomie County, the tribe employs 2,200 people and has an estimated economic impact of more than \$522 million.

In an effort to level the playing field, the tribe assesses the same 8.5 percent sales tax on purchases made at its stores as those made at non-tribal stores in the area, but puts a portion of its tax revenue towards scholarship funds and other tribal programs rather than send in money to the City of Shawnee.

For John “Rocky” Barrett, the chairman of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation since 1985, the city's request presents not only a legal challenge, but a logistical one as well if enforced.

“What am I supposed to do?” he asked. “Stop every customer and make them show me their CDIB card?”

Citizen Potawatomi Nation officials estimate that if forced to start remitting sales tax payments to the City of Shawnee for purchases made by non-Natives at its businesses with a Shawnee ZIP code, they would be sending in about \$640,000 annually. They also emphasized Wednesday that that figure was a ballpark number due to the lack of demographic data on its customers.

Barrett also disputes the city's claim that the tribe's complex and retail outlets – which are on trust property – are within the city limits. Dating back to 1867, the tribe has no documentation of the land ever being formally annexed by the City of Shawnee and its government complex does not receive

any utilities from the city. Instead, with its own sewage plant and rural water district, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation provides many of the services independently for residents in far southern Shawnee.

“They don't have a legal claim to our money,” he said. “They're claiming criminal jurisdiction to go after non-payment. Our statutes read it's illegal to claim money under false pretenses.”

Attempts to reach the leaders of the three other tribes potentially impacted by the City of Shawnee's request were unsuccessful.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribe's complex has a Shawnee mailing address, as does the tribe's gift shop and one of its casinos.

The Kickapoo Tribe is headquartered in McLoud, Okla., 15 miles to the northwest, but operates a casino and a convenience store within the Shawnee city limits. Shawnee is also on the southern edge of the Sac and Fox Tribe's jurisdictional area and is home to that tribe's housing authority, one of its casinos, a multipurpose facility and two tribally-licensed smoke shops.

All four tribes were asked to respond by Feb. 14 to the request for a meeting or the City of Shawnee would proceed with other legal options available to collect the money, including possible litigation. After finding out about the city's ultimatum in the Shawnee News-Star, Barrett said his tribe would ask for more time before agreeing to a sit-down meeting, but is prepared to go to court if necessary.

“Every tribe in the state is at risk if Shawnee goes through with this and is successful,” Barrett said.

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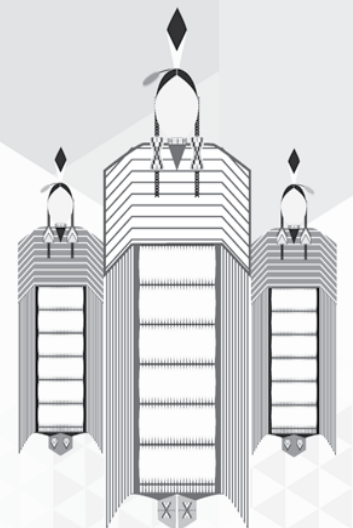
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Travel Accommodations



Our host hotel is the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay, Green Bay, WI. Rooms are \$83.00 per night if you book before Saturday, March 8, 2014. Call booking number 800-333-3333 or direct at 920-494-7300. Attendees must reference the Seminole Tribe of Florida Native Learning Center room block to reserve your room at this rate.



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HIGHER EDUCATION DIRECTOR

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma will be accepting job applications for the higher education department. The incumbent will work under the general supervision of the Executive Director implementing the Higher Education Assistance Program, Adult Vocational Training Program, Direct Employment Program and Adult Education Program, personnel, budget and overall evaluation of the program. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Must have a Master's Degree in education preferred. Bachelor degree in education or Business Administration or a related field from a four yr. accredited university or college. Must include administration, statistics, guidance and counseling. Two years in successful employment as an educator preferably on the secondary level or junior college level or professional exp. as a college scholarship officer. Must have knowledge of Federal, State and Institutional Based Financial Aid; such as the Pell, OTAG, SEOG, CWS, etc. Four yrs. Working w/Indian tribes federal Indian programs or Indian organizations. Knowledge of education, statistics, theory, concepts, etc. Work experience in the areas of employment assistance and/or vocational training administration or a related field. Must have successful experience as a proposal writer. **REQUIREMENTS:** Must possess a valid driver's license and be insurable under the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma motor vehicle insurance. Must be willing to submit to and pass an OSBI background check and drug testing. **APPLY AT:** The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, OK 73015 or call for an application at 580-654-2300, EXT. 356/358.

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Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

The Delaware Nation is accepting applications for a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor in their Oklahoma City office. Ideal candidates should preferably have a bachelor's degree in psychology, education or related field, experience working with Native Americans and experience working with individuals with psychological and/or physical disabilities. Candidate should be able to multi-task, use standard office equipment efficiently & effectively, be a team player and be personable. A VR counselor is responsible for guiding individuals with disabilities through various stages of preparation for employment which may include obtaining training, job search skills, resume preparation, job development, job placement and relationship-development with employers. Excellent written, verbal and organizational skills required. Must be able to pass background check, drug test and adhere to Delaware Nation personnel policies, including driving policy. The Delaware Nation utilizes Native American preference as allowed by federal law. Please visit www.delawarenation.com or visit our tribal complex at 31064 SH 281, Anadarko, OK 73005, for an application and fax or return by mail a cover letter declaring your interest and relevant qualifications not covered in your resume, an application and resume to 405-247-8857 no later than Friday, February 28, 2014.

GROUNDSKEEPER

The Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma is accepting online applications for the full-time, regular status position of Groundskeeper. For more information and to apply, go to www.pawneenation.org. Deadline to apply is Feb. 25, 2014. EOE and Indian Preference employer.

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EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
 Kiowa Class - through April 23, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 302, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

THIRD THURSDAY
 American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
 Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, OKC

YOUTH COUNCIL
 The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
 Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

FEBRUARY 22
 Valentines Dance at Pawnee Oklahoma Wellness Center. All gourd dancers invited to come and enjoy the day. There will be a Valentine Contest. Bring your sweethearts, bring your gourds and bells, and come dance with the Pawnee elders. Starts at 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. supper at 5 6:00 to ? War Dance. More info email roubedeauxoney@aol.com *Postponed last week to this week

FEBRUARY 15
 First meeting of Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative 4-H will be held at 10 am at

the MFSI office, at the corner of 7th and Grand streets, downtown Okmulgee (next door to KOKL radio station), 100 E. 7th St., Suite 101. For more information, contact: Stephanie Berryhill at (918) 759-0817 or sberryhill@mvskokefood.org or June Marshall at (918) 752-6139 or jmarshall@mvskokefood.org or the MFSI office at (918) 756-5915

FEBRUARY 19
 Specialty Crops Workshop - FREE PROGRAM - 9am-3pm at Otoe-Missouria Cultural Bldg. located south of the casino in the Otoe-Missouria Complex and garden. For more info or to RSVP, call Frankie Reid 580-723-4466, Ext. 120 or email freid@omtribe.org

FEBRUARY 21
 Indian Taco \$7.00 for Taco & Dessert: Indian Fellowship Baptist Church 6130 S. 58th W. Ave Oakhurst, Okla: Deliveries 5 or more contact: Mary Kelley 918-636-8394.

FEBRUARY 21
 Native American Veterans Benefit Enrollment Fair at Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center, 224 E Poplar St., Holdenville, 9am - 3pm. Info call 405-456-3876. Bring a copy of your DD form 214. Need a ride from Seminole or Wewoka? Call

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FEBRUARY 22-23
 Gamma Delta Pi's "Native Hoops" Men's & Women's Open Basketball Tournament.

MARCH 1
 Peoria Tribe Annual Elections. Vote for Chief and two seats on the Grievance Committee, each for four year terms. Polls open 7am - noon.

MARCH 15
 8th Annual Pawnee Nation College Powwow at Pawnee Nation Multipurpose Complex. Call 918-762-3343 for more information

MARCH 15
 Honor Dance for Osage Nation Princess Autumn Griffin Williams, Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, 1449 W. Main, Pawhuska. Gourd Dancing starts at 2:30 pm. War Dancing at 7:30pm. More info call Margie Williams 918-639-0427.

APRIL 5
 Checotah Native Art Market, 9am-4pm at the Heartland Heritage Museum & Gallery, 116 N Broadway, Checotah. Paintings, beadwork, textiles, leather crafts, cultural items, jewel, music, demonstrations, Native food concessions and more. Free to the public. For information call Frankie Blagg, 918-916-9015

APRIL 25-27
 United Cherokee 16th Annual Festival and Native American Powwow, 9:00AM 'til 5:00PM at 3550 Creek Path Road, Guntersville, Alabama 35976 Contact: (256) 582-2333 or ucanonline@bellsouth.net

JUNE 6-8, 2014
 Chilocco Indian School Class of 1964 50th Year Reunion - The Chilocco Indian School class of 1964 will be celebrating their 50th year reunion at the annual June 2014 Chilocco reunion. For contact and planning purposes, the 1964 Chilocco graduates are requested to contact Charley Johnson, Jr., P.O. Box 531, Bixby, OK 74008 telephone No. (918) 366-6158, e-mail address is johnson6158@olp.net or Lucian (Jake) Larney, 524 S. 2nd St., Okemah, OK 74859, telephone No. (405) 401-8881, e-mail jake74868@hotmail.com.



Native Crossroads Film Festival coming to Norman

Norman, Okla. – Several feature and short films, plus panel discussions, will explore the deep-rooted and dynamic link between land and indigenous cultural identity.

The second annual Native Crossroads Film Festival is set for Thursday, Feb. 27 through Saturday, March 1 at the Norman campus of the University of Oklahoma.

The festival pairs screenings of short films with roundtable discussions intended to inspire conversations among filmmakers, campus scholars, community and tribal organization representatives, writers and performers.

Highlights of the festival include the Oklahoma debuts of three major motion pictures concerned with indigenous connections to place: *Winter in the Blood*, *The Lesser Blessed* and *Satellite Boy*.

Keynote speaker Winona LaDuke (Mississippi Band Anishinaabe), a nationally renowned advocate for environmental activism, sustainable development, and indigenous land rights, will speak 4:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 28.

Feature films screened include:

- “The Lesser Blessed,” 7:30

p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27, Kerr Auditorium, Sam Noble Natural History Museum. Q&A with writer Richard Van Camp to follow.

Based on the novel by Richard Van Camp (Tlicho Dene), “The Lesser Blessed” is the story of Larry Sole, a Tlicho Indian growing up in the small northern town of Fort Simmer. At 16, he loves heavy metal, the North and Juliet Hope. Starring Joel Evans and Benjamin Bratt, “The Lesser Blessed” is an eye-opening depiction of what it is to be a young Native man in a remote Northern community.

“Satellite Boy,” 7:30

p.m., Friday, Feb. 28, Kerr Auditorium, Sam Noble Natural History Museum. Q&A with writer and director Catriona McKenzie (Australian Aboriginal Kurnai) to follow. The film tells the story of an abandoned, 10-year-old Pete (Cameron Wallaby), who lives with his elderly grandfather, Jagamarra (David Gulpilil), in a deserted outdoor cinema of outback town Wyndham, Australia. When his grandfather’s home is threatened with demolition, Pete sees his world in jeopardy and, with his best friend, Kalmain (Joseph Pedley), sets off for the city. Together the boys travel through epic Kimberley country, and when they get lost in the bush, Pete and Kalmain find true friendship. Starving and thirsty, Pete must remember some of the traditional bush skills his grandfather taught him in order to survive.

“Winter in the Blood,” 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 1, Kerr Auditorium, Sam Noble Natural History Museum. Q&A with co-director Alex Smith to follow. “Winter in the Blood” is based on the novel by James Welch (Blackfeet and Gros Ventre) about contemporary Native American life, first published in 1974. The film was shot on the Hi-Line in northern Montana, and was directed by Alex and Andrew Smith. Virgil First Raise embarks on a wild and darkly comic odyssey to retrieve his renegade wife— and the beloved rifle she stole. He ultimately finds himself. The film stars Chaske Spencer, David Morse and Julia Jones.

For more information or accommodations on the basis of disability, contact Karl Schmidt at (405) 325-6639. For a complete schedule of screenings and locations, visit our webpage cas.ou.edu/native-crossroads.

New TV series holding casting call in Tahlequah

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Independent film company IndieIN Films is looking for Cherokee people who are outgoing, personable and who are willing to tell it like it is for a new unscripted TV series.

The TV production will be a series of on-camera interviews taking a look at the everyday life and obstacles of Cherokee people or their families living in Tahlequah.

Preference will be given to those who can speak Cherokee, have attended or attend the Cherokee Nation Immersion Charter School and are strongly involved in Cherokee culture.

Independent film producer Celia Xavier created IndieIN Films in 2011. IndieIN Films recently produced and released the film “Playground of the Native Son,” a documentary depicting the 1920s Hominy Indians football team. The film is based on the story of the 1925 Hominy Indians professional football team that beat the NFL New York Giants.

Submissions will be taken through email and must include first and last name, contact phone number, city and state of residence, a brief description of you, your family and why you would be great for the show, a recent photo in JPEG format and how many reside in your household.

Interviews will be by appointment on Feb. 22 in Tahlequah.

For more information, email contact@IndieInfilms.com or jami.custer@gmail.com.

Ruthe Blalock Jones to be inducted into Circle of Honor

By JOHN FANCHER
AIRC Media Release

TULSA, Okla. – Tulsa City-County Library’s American Indian Resource Center will induct Ruthe Blalock Jones into the Circle of Honor during a special presentation March 1, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. at Hardesty Regional Library’s Connor’s Cove, 8316 E. 93rd St.

Jones’ award presentation begins the monthlong American Indian Festival of Words celebration honoring the achievements and accomplishments of Native Americans. Programs will be held throughout TCCL locations during March. All library events are free and open to the public.

Jones, of Shawnee-Delaware-Peoria descent, was born in Claremore, Okla. Her work as an artist began at age 10 under the tutelage of Charles Banks Wilson. At age 13, she entered the Philbrook Indian Annual show and earned an honorable mention. She attended Bacone College and earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the University of Tulsa in 1972. In 2011, she was appointed Commissioner of Indian arts and Crafts Board (IACB) by Department of the Interior Secretary Kenneth Salazar. She is director emeritus and associate professor of Art at Bacone College.

Her works focus on the traditional American Indian ceremonial and social events. They are recorded in paintings, drawings, limited edition prints in linoleum block, woodcut and serigraphs. In recent years, her works have been published by Gilcrease Museum, The University of Oklahoma Press, The Museum of Natural History, Time-Life Books, and the United States Department of Justice Annual Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Select collections of her art include the Heard Museum, Phoenix, Ariz.; Museum of the American Indian, New York; Hampton University, Hampton, Va., The National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C., and Avery Collection, Arizona State University.

Past advisory positions have been with the Chicago Art Institute, Oklahoma Historical Society and Advisory Committee to the director of the Sam Noble Museum, University of Oklahoma. Most recently, she served as a panelist at the British Museum, London, England.

The Circle of Honor ceremony recognizes an American Indian for his or her achievements by acknowledging the inductee’s contributions that have enriched others’ lives and by celebrating the inductee’s action in the face of adversity, commitment to the preservation of American Indian culture and legacy for future generations.

“I was proud and honored when I was informed that I had been named to the Circle of Honor. It is especially humbling and gratifying to follow in such a prestigious line of past honorees,” said Jones. “As an artist, the award recognizes and honors artists and the work we do. Speaking for most Indian artists that I know, I believe we are all interested in honoring and preserving the culture and traditions of our families and tribes. That is what I have tried to do with help along the way from my parents, relatives and friends, teachers, collectors and others. I will strive to continue on this path and try to live up to the high standard of the award and the previous recipients. I am mindful of those who have gone on and are not here to share this honor. I believe they are here in spirit; one especially is my recently departed friend Charles Banks Wilson, who I know would be very proud. N’yweh, Thank you.”



COURTESY
Robert J. Conley is pictured in his home with the 2014 Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature.

Cherokee writer wins WWA’s 2014 Owen Wister Award

ENCAMPMENT, Wyo. – Cherokee Nation citizen Robert J. Conley was recently named the 2014 recipient of the Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature. The award is given by the Western Writers of America as its highest honor.

Conley is the Sequoyah Distinguished Professor in Cherokee Studies and founding director of the Tsalagi Institute at Western Carolina University. He is also the immediate past president of Western Writers of America, and the author of around 80 books, including the Spur Award-winning novels “The Dark Island” and “Nickajack.” He also won a Spur for his short story “Yellow Bird: An Imaginary Autobiography,” published in “The Witch of

Goingsnake.”

Among his other novels are “Mountain Windsong,” “War Woman,” “Cherokee Dragon,” “Sequoyah” and “Brass.”

Conley has blended a career as a novelist with historical research and publishing, including material about his tribe: “A Cherokee Encyclopedia” and “Cherokee Thoughts Honest & Uncensored.”

His poems and short stories have been published in numerous periodicals and anthologies over the years in Germany, France, Belgium, New Zealand and Yugoslavia. They appear in multiple languages: English, Cherokee, German, French and Macedonian.

He also wrote the novelization of a screenplay, “Geronimo: An American Legend,” published in the United States by Pocket Books and reprinted in translation in Italy.

His first novel, “Back to Malachi,” was written “out of anger,” Conley said, rooted in misrepresentations of Ned Christie, “a Cherokee who was falsely accused of murder and hounded for 4-1/2 years before he was killed by a huge posse.” At the time, publishers did not believe they could publish a Western with an Indian protagonist, but Conley’s work broke the threshold as he went on to assist in the early development of Wordcraft Circle of Native American Writers, which encourages American Indian writers.

Robert Conley died Sunday morning, Feb. 16, 2014.

A large advertisement for "KILLER FANTASY" featuring a DJ, a cowboy, and a woman in a black dress. The text "KILLER FANTASY" is prominently displayed in the center.

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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 20 + ISSUE 09

MARCH 3-7, 2014

Tribal feud holds up \$1 million in funds

■ The tribe’s government is split into two factions. Continuing court battles are causing funds to be withheld.

MADERA, Calif. (AP) – A dispute about tribal leadership is holding up about \$1 million

in donations to Madera County schools, animal welfare agencies, tribal organizations and veterans groups.

The Chukchansi tribe is obliged to donate \$1 million annually to local groups under a contract with the county. But a legal tussle between two factions of the tribe

has brought its leadership and the funds into question.

One group operates the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians business complex and the Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino near Fresno.

But the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs last week said it intends to

recognize seven members of the 2010 tribal council, including the second group’s leader.

The first group is appealing that decision.

The Fresno Bee reports that in the meantime, additional court battles have caused the funds to be withheld.



Gov. Dannel P. Malloy

Gov. faults tribal recognition proposals

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) – Gov. Dannel P. Malloy has written to the president to take issue with proposed changes to the process for granting federal recognition to American Indian tribes.

Malloy says in a letter delivered Monday to President Barack Obama that the proposals as written would unfairly affect the state of Connecticut because of criteria that would appear to benefit three tribes that already have lost bids for recognition.

He said consequences of approval for those tribes would be “devastating” because they have pending claims to vast areas of fully developed land.

The state’s entire Congressional delegation has also expressed opposition to the rules lawmakers say would water down requirements for recognition.

The new rules were proposed in June by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which invited public comment at hearings around the country.

Ex-tribal leader wears bulletproof vest to court

By JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press

The ousted leader of a small American Indian tribe in northeastern California wore a bulletproof vest to her first court appearance Tuesday on charges she shot and killed four people and tried to murder two others at a meeting to evict her from tribal housing.

Cherie Lash Rhoades, 44, was in Modoc County Superior Court in Alturas, Calif., for arraignment on four counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder. The charges carry a potential death penalty due to the multiple victims.

Judge David A. Mason agreed to continue the arraignment until Monday at the defense’s request, said District Attorney Jordan Funk.

Defense attorney Antonio Alvarez told The Associated Press he had just gotten the case and had no comment.

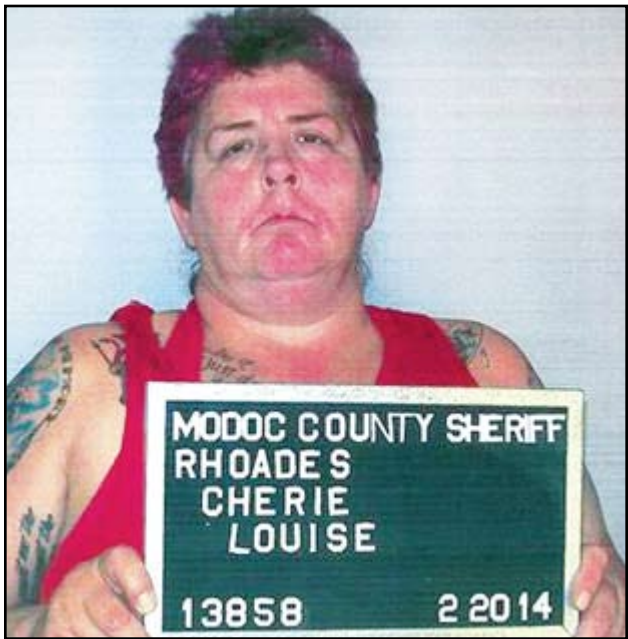
Rhoades, of Cedarville, Calif., has been held without bail at an undisclosed location since her arrest Thursday outside

the headquarters building in Alturas.

The Cedarville Rancheria Tribal Council was meeting that afternoon to consider her appeal of her eviction from tribal housing, tribal

a federal investigation into allegations that she embezzled at least \$50,000 from the tribe. Her brother Rurik Davis, 50, was serving as interim tribal chairman.

During the hearing,



ALTURAS POLICE DEPARTMENT PHOTO
Cherie Lash Rhoades was in court Feb. 25, 2014 for arraignment on four counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder. She wore a bulletproof vest to her first court appearance.

attorney Jack Duran has said. She had been suspended as tribal chairwoman just three weeks earlier, pending

Rhoades opened fire with a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol fire, killing Davis, two other Tribal Council members

and a tribal administrator, court documents allege.

Theslain council members included Rhoades’ 19-year-old niece, Angel Penn, who was holding her newborn baby on her lap when she was killed, Duran said. The baby wasn’t hurt and was being placed with a family member.

After running out of bullets, Rhoades grabbed a kitchen knife, police said. She was stabbing someone in the parking lot when officers arrested her, court documents say.

Rhoades was later transferred to an undisclosed location because the husband of one of the victims works at the county jail, authorities said.

Rhoades worked at the tribe’s gas station and convenience store in Cedarville, Calif., about 25 miles east of Alturas on the other side of the Warner Mountains.

Her son, Jack Stockton, was ousted as vice chairman and evicted from tribal housing on the same grounds as Rhoades, Duran said. Stockton wasn’t at the hearing when the shooting

broke out, and he has no listed phone number.

Also killed in the shooting were Rhoades’ nephew Glenn Calonicco, 30, another council member; and tribal administrator Shelia Lynn Russo, 47.

Two women who were wounded survived bullet wounds and also were cut with a knife. The criminal complaint identified them as Melissa and Monica Davis, Rurik Davis’ daughters.

Authorities have said they were alerted to the gun and knife attack when a woman covered in blood ran to nearby City Hall and rang a bell to get in.

The Cedarville Rancheria is a federally recognized tribe with 35 registered members. The Rancheria owns 26 acres in Cedarville, where most members reside in nine one-story houses built in the 1950s.

Investigators have been looking into whether Rhoades embezzled federal grant money meant for the Cedarville Rancheria, a person familiar with the tribe’s situation told the AP

See VEST on Page 4

Impoverished RI tribe plagued by setbacks now under subpoena to federal grand jury

By MICHELLE R. SMITH

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) – The Narragansett Indian Tribe has been subpoenaed as part of a criminal investigation, according to a federal appeals court decision unsealed Tuesday, but the ruling didn’t specify who or what the federal grand jury is looking into or what records were sought.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision says the case is under seal.

Tribal lawyer William Devereaux said he wanted to respect the secrecy of grand jury proceedings and could not discuss the details. When asked if the matter is ongoing, Devereaux said he’s not the one to answer that, and referred questions to prosecutors.

Jim Martin, a spokesman for U.S. Attorney Peter Neronha, said he can’t comment on matters before a grand jury.

The appeals court decision concerned a subpoena delivered in October 2012 to the tribe’s historic preservation office. The office oversees “historic preservation, Indian graves’ protection and religious freedom and other relevant cultural matters,” according to the tribe’s website.

The appeals court found the tribe doesn’t have to comply with the subpoena because the grand jury that issued it was discharged, but it also found that sovereign immunity does not shield the tribe.

“Tribal sovereign immunity provides no refuge from the subpoena power of a federal grand jury,” the court wrote.

The appeals court also said the tribe complied with a different grand jury subpoena in September 2013. Again, the court gave few details other than to say the tribe initially resisted it, then ultimately produced the requested records. Devereaux said

the two subpoenas sought “pretty much” the same thing.

The impoverished tribe received federal recognition in 1983 and has been plagued by a series of setbacks and legal woes in past years. Most recently, a tribal housing official pleaded guilty in April 2013 to embezzling federal housing funds.

In 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court limited the tribe’s attempt to get the federal government to place into trust 31 acres it owns in Charlestown. State officials feared the tribe would build a casino or a tax-free zone. In 2006, voters rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that would have allowed the tribe to build a casino.

And in 2003, the tribe opened up a tax-free smoke shop on its land. State police raided it, and a violent confrontation ensued. The appeals court later ruled the shop was operating illegally.

NM court to hear arguments on Fort Sill suit

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) – The New Mexico Supreme court plans a March 10 hearing for arguments on an Oklahoma-based tribe’s lawsuit to force Gov. Susana Martinez to recognize its status in New Mexico.

The Fort Sill Apache Tribe was granted federal reservation status for a 30-acre plot in its homelands in southwestern New Mexico and it contends Martinez is violating a state law and discriminating against

the tribe.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reports that Martinez and her lawyers contend that the Fort Sill Apaches only want a toehold in New Mexico so they can open a casino.



COURTESY PHOTO
Kamiah High School Principal Venice Guillory-Lacy was put on administrative leave Sept. 25, 2013. Many Native American students disagreed with the dismissal and staged a Sept. 27 walk-out in her support.

Fired Native principal files notice of lawsuit

LEWISTON, Idaho (AP) – A fired northern Idaho high school principal who says she was discriminated against because of her race has filed a notice of her intentions to bring a lawsuit against the Kamiah School District.

The Lewiston Tribune reports Wednesday that Venice Guillory-Lacy contends in a tort claim that her firing from Kamiah High School was because she

didn’t keep American Indian activities separate from the school. A tort claim is a legal requirement that is a precursor to a lawsuit against a public entity.

“Superintendent Fred Mercer told Ms. Lacy that he wanted all Native American activities to be kept segregated from other school activities,” the tort claim said. “This was a

See LAWSUIT on Page 4



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Cherokee Nation raising minimum wage

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) – The Cherokee Nation, one of the largest Native American tribes in the country, is raising its minimum wage by 50 cents, Chief Bill John Baker announced Monday.

Baker signed an executive order last week to boost the minimum wage for tribal employees to \$9.50 over the next two years. The tribe's current minimum wage is \$9 per hour.

Employees with more than one year of service earning minimum wage will jump to \$9.50 per hour on Oct. 1, which is the first day of fiscal year 2015. Workers with less than one year of service will see a staggered increase over the fiscal year.

Nearly 400 Cherokee Nation government employees will benefit from the increase, which amounts to more than \$1,000 per year, the tribe said.



Bill John Baker

"We recognize that while the cost of goods and services has risen, wages have not, so

we're doing something about that. This wage increase will help more Oklahomans put food on the table, and rest easier about how to make ends meet," Baker said in a statement. "It will also allow our employees more discretionary spending, which boosts the local economy."

The increase will not impact Cherokee Nation Businesses, which oversees the tribe's gaming and

business enterprises. The minimum wage for those employees is currently \$9.36 an hour. Baker is calling on the Cherokee Nation Businesses' board of directors to consider increasing the minimum wage as well.

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25. President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats are seeking to increase it to \$10.10 hourly by 2016.

Former tribal AG to go before jury in sexual misconduct case

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAULS VALLEY, Okla. – A former tribal attorney general will go before a jury this fall over allegations of sexual misconduct.

The trial of Chickasaw Nation citizen Jeremy Oliver is scheduled for Sept. 15 in Garvin County Criminal Court. Stemming from a February 2013 arrest, Oliver faces three counts, including using technology to solicit sexual conduct with a minor, publishing and distributing obscene material and possession of a controlled substance.

The first count is a felony and carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. The second and third counts



Jeremy Oliver

are misdemeanors. Each one is punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

According to the initial arrest report, Oliver offered via text message to reduce a client's fees in exchange for nude photographs or sexual favors from the client's 13- and 18-year-old daughters, as well as sexual favors from the client.

Oliver also sent an obscene

photograph of himself to the client while making the request. A search of his home at the time of the arrest uncovered several pounds of marijuana and several hundred nude photographs.

Oliver was the attorney general for former Cheyenne and Arapaho claimant governor Leslie Wandrie-Harjo's administration for more than two years. Prior to his appointment, he was the general counsel for the constitutionally-bound tribes' legislature.

According to his LinkedIn account, Oliver is also the former attorney general for the Caddo Nation, headquartered in Binger, Okla.

Oliver did not respond to requests for comment.

Tribes, city of Shawnee set date to discuss dispute over sales tax

By KRISTI EATON
Associated Press

OKLAHOMACITY (AP) – City of Shawnee officials and leaders of several local Native American tribes will meet next month in an effort to resolve a dispute over sales taxes.

Shawnee Mayor Wes Mainord said in a letter to tribal leaders earlier this month that the tribes must start collecting and paying 3 percent tax on sales from tribal enterprises to nontribal members. But the leader of one of the tribes says his tribe is exempted from that by federal law. The meeting between Shawnee city officials and tribal leaders is scheduled for March 24.

In the letter to the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma and the Sac and Fox Nation, Mainord said the city must take steps to secure its tax revenues for sales within the city limits.

"I write to propose the City reach agreements with the Tribal Nations for your collections and payments to the City of the City sales tax of 3% on sales by tribal enterprises to non-members and non-Indians

("non-members"), to avoid the City's having to proceed to enforce payment of the full 8.5% Oklahoma state sales tax," Mainord wrote.

The mayor cites Supreme Court cases to support his assertion and proposal, and said that the burden falls to the non-Indian customer, not the tribal nation or tribal enterprise. Though Mainord wrote in the letter that sales tax in the city of 30,000 has declined significantly in recent years, Shawnee City Manager Brian McDougal said in a phone interview that the sales tax has been "soft," with less than 3 percent growth on average over the past decade.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett said federal law exempts the tribe from collecting and remitting the sales tax. Only Congress can regulate commerce with Indian tribes.

"Municipal law isn't applied to us, and that's by federal law," he said.

The tribe, Barrett said, does collect sales tax at its FireLake Discount Foods store as a way to level the playing field with other local grocery stores. "It's (the money) used for education and public

services. Our government services are financed by our tax collection and our business profits go into expanding our businesses," he said.

Absentee-Shawnee Gov. Edwina Butler-Wolfe said she could not comment on the issue ahead of the meeting while a message for Sac and Fox Nation Principal Chief George Thurman was not returned. A number for Kickapoo Tribe Chairman Gilbert Salazar could not be located.

Businesses collect sales tax and remit it to the Oklahoma Tax Commission, which then remits it to cities, counties and the state. But there is no way for the commission to know whether a tribal member or a non-tribal member paid the sales tax, said Paula Ross, agency spokeswoman.

And the commission can't audit the tribes because it does not have jurisdiction, she added.

The majority of the 39 tribes in Oklahoma have permits to collect sales tax, Ross said.

A tribe may have a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement with a municipality.

Native American cabinet position proposed in OK

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) – Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker is applauding efforts to create a cabinet level position in the Oklahoma governor's office that would be dedicated to Native American affairs.

State Democratic Rep. Chuck Hoskin of Vinita has authored a bill that would create an executive branch cabinet secretary of Native American Affairs. The secretary would be designated the Oklahoma Native American liaison. Hoskin is also the Cherokee Nation chief of staff.

Baker says that with 39 tribes in Oklahoma, communication and cooperation between the tribes and the governor's office are essential.

The bill is House Bill 1305.



COURTESY PHOTO

Steve Wilcox, far right, gives a plaque to Marilyn Williams, Director of Choctaw Nation Child Care Assistance, center, and to Assistant Director Monona Dill.

Choctaw Nation CCA goes paperless with help of Native owned company

By DEE MOORE

DURANT, Okla. – Intertribal Software and Choctaw Nation celebrated a 2014 Child Care Assistance Kick-off for the implementation of the newest version of Intertribal CCA on Jan. 23.

Choctaw Nation CCA Director Marilyn Williams and Asst. Director Monona Dill accepted the award honoring the Choctaw Nation CCA's Paperless Operations.

Choctaw Nation CCA has implemented Intertribal CCA as well as Laserfiche.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, has more than 200,000 citizens worldwide, and is the third-largest Native American Tribe in the United States. It is also Southeast Oklahoma's largest employer, with more than 6,000 employees. Looking to the future, the tribe is working on a 100-year plan to ensure the success of the Choctaw people for many generations to come.



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Tulsa libraries inviting public to Native American Festival of Words program

TULSA, Okla. – The Tulsa City-County Library’s American Indian Resource Center is offering Native American-related programs in March as part of the 2014 “American Indian Festival of Words.”

The festival will feature free, entertaining, educational presentations celebrating American Indian heritage, culture, arts and achievements.

From 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on March 8, a Native comic book workshop will be held at the Martin Regional Library at 2601 S. Garnett Road. The workshop will feature Cherokee artist Roy Boney, Laguna Pueblo artist Lee Francis, Caddo artist Michael Sheyahshe and Kickapoo artist Arigon Starr who are a part of the Indigenous Narratives Collective.

The four artists will discuss ways comics and sequential art are redefining American Indian stories for the next generation. Plus, participants may learn from the artists’ collective experience about the joys and pitfalls of creating successful comic book projects either online or in print. Visitors are invited to bring their own comic book portfolios for review.

Muscogee Creek citizen Will Hill will share traditional stories beginning at 2:30 p.m. on March 18 at the Helmerich Library at 5131 E. 91st St. Hill is a member of Mahenwahdose, which is a Muscogean word meaning “True Native American

Theater.” Mahenwahdose is a Native American Indian performance company comprised of talented performing artists dedicated to performing accurate,



Muscogee Creek citizen Will Hill will share traditional stories beginning at 2:30 p.m. on March 18. Hill is a member of a local Native American performance company

educational and traditional stories of Native America.

Stay and Play Story Time With Joy Harjo will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on March 19 at the Zarrow Regional Library at 2224 W. 51st St.

Participants are invited to come and listen to Harjo read her book “The Good Luck Cat.”

A Dancing Eagles program will begin at 1 p.m. on March 20 at the University Village Retirement Community Stovall Theater at 8555 S. Lewis. Mike and Lisa Pahsetopah will perform Native American dances and traditional storytelling. This entertaining and educational performance will include specialty, traditional and social dances. Audience participation is encouraged.

Cherokee artist Crystal Hanna will teach a youth pottery class at the South Broken Arrow Library at 3600 S. Chestnut on March 29. A class for first through fourth grade youth is set for 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. A 90-minute class for youths in grades fifth through seventh grade will begin at 2 p.m.

Hanna will also share Native stories during the hands-on pottery workshop.

The Tulsa Library Trust, Tulsa City-County Library’s American Indian Resource Center, the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, Cherokee Builders Inc., Dr. Frank and Mary Shaw and the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries are sponsoring the events.

Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa exhibiting Houser works

TULSA, Okla. (AP) – The Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa is exhibiting a selection of works by artist Allan Houser to commemorate the centennial of his birth.

The exhibition, titled, “Form and Line: Allan Houser’s Sculpture and Drawings,” opened Thursday and continues until June 29.

Museum directors say a collection of his sculptures, sketchbooks and charcoal and pastel

drawings on display will honor the life of Houser, a Chiricahua Apache artist.

One of Houser’s most significant works, The Sacred Rain Arrow, is among his best-known pieces, and can be found in front of the museum. Its image has been reproduced on Oklahoma’s license plates.

Most of the exhibition works at Gilcrease have been loaned by Allan Houser Inc., the artist’s estate in Santa Fe, N.M.

Choctaw author coming to University of Chicago at Urbana-Champaign

EDMOND, Okla. (AP) – An award-winning Native American author is scheduled to take part in a reading and signing at the University of Central Oklahoma this month.

LeAnne Howe, a member of the Choctaw Nation, is the author of

the memoir, “Choctalking on Other Realities.” Howe is also a professor of American Indian studies and English at the University of Chicago at Urbana-Champaign.

She’ll be at the school on March 11 at 7:30 p.m. to sign copies and answer questions about the book. The event is free and open to the public.

Robert J. Conley memorial set for March 15

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – A public memorial for the late Robert J. Conley has been set for 10 a.m. on March 15 at The Place Where They Play (Sequoyah High School gym) with lunch immediately following.

Conley, a Cherokee Nation citizen and award-winning author, passed away in Sylva, N.C., on Feb 16 at age 73.

Robert was born on Dec. 29, 1940, in Cushing, Okla. After finishing high school in Wichita Falls, Texas, he attended college there at Midwestern University where he received his bachelor’s degree in drama in 1966 and his master’s in English in 1968.

He later served as assistant programs manager for the CN in the 1970s. He also went on to serve as director of Indian Studies at Eastern Montana College in Billings, Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla., and at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

He was also an associate professor of English at Morningside College and an instructor of English at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield and Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

He also held teaching and administrative appointments at the University of New Mexico and Lenoir-Rhyne

College, and served as elder-in-residence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In July 2008, he joined Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C., and served as the Sequoyah Distinguished Professor in Cherokee Studies and founding director of its Tsalagi Institute.

Shortly after his appointment at WCU, he received the 2009 American Indian Festival of Words Author Award, presented to outstanding American Indian writers who have made significant contributions to American literature. It is the only existing award given by a public library to honor an American Indian author.

“Robert was an important friend and mentor to many faculty, staff and students at Western Carolina University, as well as a vocal advocate for the preservation and promotion of Cherokee culture both in Oklahoma and on the Qualla Boundary,” Richard Starnes, dean of the WCU College of Arts and Sciences, said. “He will be greatly missed.”

His poems and short stories have been published in numerous periodicals and anthologies during the years, including some in Germany, France,



Robert J. Conley

Belgium, New Zealand and Yugoslavia. His poems have been published in English, Cherokee, German, French and Macedonian versions.

He said his first novel, BACK TO MALACHI, was published in 1986 “out of anger” rooted in misrepresentations of Ned Christie, “a Cherokee who was falsely accused of murder and hounded for 4-1/2 years before he was killed by a huge posse.” At the time, publishers did not believe they could publish a Western with an Indian protagonist, but his work broke the threshold as he went on to assist in the early development of Wordcraft

Circle of Native American Writers, which encourages American Indian writers.

Since that time he had more than 80 books published, a collection of short stories, several reprints, including three British editions, and several books on tape. He also wrote the novelization of a screenplay, GERONIMO: An American Legend, which was published in the United States by Pocketbooks and reprinted in translation in Italy.

He was a member of the Western Writers of America and won two of its Golden Spur awards for his novels NICKAJACK and THE DARK ISLAND and another

Spur award for his short story YELLOW BIRD: An Imaginary Autobiography, published in THE WITCH OF GOINGSNAKE. In 1997, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Professional Writers Hall of Fame and a recipient of a lifetime achievement award in 2009 from the Oklahoma Center for the Book.

He was recently named the 2014 recipient of the Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Contributions to Western Literature. The award is given by the Western Writers of America, of which he was a past president, as its highest honor. The award is to be presented posthumously during the organization’s annual convention in June in Sacramento, Calif.

The lifetime recognition award represents the latest in a long list of honors for Robert, including the Wordcraft Circle “Wordcrafter of the Year” in 1997 and “Writer of the Year” in 1999 for fiction for WAR WOMAN. His THE CHEROKEE NATION: A History was selected by the American Library Association as an “outstanding academic title” for 2005, and his CHEROKEE MEDICINE MAN was a 2007 nominee for the Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma competition.

He blended a career as a novelist with historical research and publishing, including material about his tribe: A CHEROKEE E N C Y L O P E D I A and CHEROKEE THOUGHTS HONEST & UNCENSORED.

He was the son of the late Robert Parris and Peggy Jackson Conley. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Thomas; and two children, Robert Parris Conley and Vanessa Edith Conley.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn; a son, Eddie of Tahlequah, Okla.; a daughter, Cheryl of Tahlequah; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Peggy Cline of Jacksboro, Texas, and Donna Hammond of Roseburg, Ore.

Gifts in memory of Robert will be accepted by the WCU Tsalagi Institute. Gifts may be made by sending a check to Western Carolina University, Office of Development, 201 H.F. Robinson Administration Building, Cullowhee, N.C. 28723, with “Tsalagi Institute” in the memo line; through the website give.wcu.edu; or by calling 828-227-7124 or toll-free at 1-800-492-8496.

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Muscogee Creek Nation announces college work experience program

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN) Office of Employment and Training is pleased to announce that applications are now available to pick up for the College Work Experience (CWE) program. CWE is a 12-week internship program for the college juniors, seniors and graduate students of the MCN.

The program allows students to gain professional experience, skills and knowledge related to their field of study. They engage in workforce opportunities within the MCN and learn the history, culture and traditions of the tribe. The overall goal of the program is to increase the participants learning through service.

“The program has really taken on a whole new dynamic this year,” CWE Program Assistant Rachael Sourjohn said.

Admission into the program will depend upon an application review and an interview with the Employment and Training staff. Once accepted, participants will attend a week long, ‘Leadership Academy’ before starting their internships. The Leadership Academy will feature unique seminars about various

leadership topics.

Each leadership topic has been paired with a program or department within MCN. The speakers will take their topic and relate it to their program; giving the students the leadership skills they need and knowledge about the programs their tribe offers. On top of each of the seminars, the participants will tour the three branches of the MCN tribal government.

“We’re really excited for the participants to see all aspects of our tribal government,” Sourjohn said.

Eligibilityforthe program is limited to Muscogee (Creek) citizens who have permanent residence within the MCN tribal boundaries. Applications can be picked up from the Employment and Training office in the Education and Training building located on the MCN Tribal Complex or printed from the MCN tribal website: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/Education/educationandtraining.html.

Application deadline is March 21, 2014.

Wyandotte ‘Superhero Race’ to benefit suicide, bullying prevention

• Racers are encouraged to dress up as their favorite superhero

By WILLIAM SWAIN
Wynadotte Nation

WYANDOTTE, Okla. – Are you faster than a speeding bullet? Is your nickname the Scarlet Speedster or Crimson Comet? Have you ever wondered who the fastest superhero was – The Flash or Superman?

Well, don your cape, put your super skills to the test and see who the fastest superhero is by joining the Wyandotte Nation's M e t h a m p h e t a m i n e & Suicide Prevention Initiative, along with the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, for the Superhero Run April 19.

Dress up as your favorite superhero and show your superhero kindness to help raise awareness for suicide and bullying by joining the Superhero 5K and 1 Mile Fun Walk. The Flash, Superman and everyone

else is welcome for this family event.

The race starts at 8 a.m. with packet pickup from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Walkup registration is limited to 20 spots the day of the race. Online registration is now open: www.signmeup.com/97696.

March 3 is the last day to guarantee a T-shirt. The deadline to register is April 14. For more information, please contact Shelby Arrasmith, sarrasmith@wyandotte-nation.org or (918) 678-2070.

The event is free and will be held at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, 1 Turtle Drive, in Wyandotte. Donations of animal food will be accepted for the Humane Society of Grove and Grand Lake.

The Superhero 5K will be a fun community event to help raise awareness to two important community issues: suicide and bullying. By participating in the event, you can be a Superhero for someone

who might be a bully victim, considering suicide, just attempted suicide or just had a love one who committed suicide.

• Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people, resulting in about 4,400 deaths per year.

• Suicide ranked as the eighth leading cause of death for American Indians/Alaska Natives of all ages.

• 40% of all Native American suicides involve children and youth ages 15 to 24

• Bully victims are between 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims.

• Nearly 30% of students are either bullies or victims of bullying.

• 160,000 kids stay home from school every day because of fear of bullying.

In an emergency, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 1

violation of claimant’s freedom of speech, discrimination against Ms. Lacy on the basis of race or ethnicity, and was not a legitimate limitation upon Nez Perce tribal culture within the school.”

Guillory-Lacy is of American Indian and African-American descent. She said the problems started on the first day of school when she greeted students in English and Nez Perce. She was placed on administrative leave a few weeks into her first year as principal, and fired a month later.

Kylena Guffie, the district’s business manager, declined to comment.

The tort claim also said that Guillory-Lacy tried to implement a fee waiver policy based on financial need, not race, but was told by Mercer not to grant waivers to American Indian students “because they get enough handouts already.”

Mercer declined to comment to The Associated Press on Wednesday, citing privacy concerns with personnel decisions.

Guillory-Lacy also said in the claim that she wasn’t given the opportunity to testify at a due process meeting on Oct. 9 involving her firing. A hearing on her appeal the firing is set for April 14.

VEST

Continued from Page 1

last week on the condition of anonymity.

The tribe had received an Indian housing grant for \$50,399 in 2012 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to a news release on the department’s website. Duran said he couldn’t

confirm or deny that was the money in question, adding the amount could be less “or a lot more.”

Police have said they are still working on a motive, but a nephew who lived with Rhoades, Jacob Penn, has said she snapped under the pressure of her brother’s attempt to evict her.

Eviction from tribal housing is a serious punishment for American

Indians. But Rhoades and Stockton were not being removed from tribal rolls and would continue to receive their portion of \$1.1 million in gambling revenue shared by casino tribes with the Rancheria, which has no casino, Duran said.

The tribe was busy cleaning the headquarters and was unsure if it would resume using the facility after the slayings, Duran said.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Wyandotte Nation is requesting the services of a professional contractor to build two (2) duplex units in the Wyandotte Nation Community near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. This project is funded in part by NAHASDA (Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act) through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Details of this project will be included in the bid packet. Professional Contractors for consideration must be able to provide adequate liability insurance, workman's comp, and subscribe to federal requirements regarding labor. Indian Preference will apply. Indian Preference documentation will need to be submitted to the Housing Department before submitting the actual bid. Selection will be based on the ability to deliver a quality product and on the ability to work well with the Housing staff. Interested parties may pick up bid packets at the Wyandotte Nation Housing Department located at 64600 E. 145 Rd, Wyandotte, OK, (Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 3:30pm) beginning February 25, 2014. All proposals must be received by March 20th, 2014 to be considered.

Wyandotte Nation is requesting the services of a professional Architect to design and develop plans/specifications for a Culture Center/Museum building project, funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Details of this project will be made available to interested parties upon request. Indian preference will be observed, and at this time, only proposals from qualified Indian owned professional architect firms will be accepted. The proposed project will be constructed using Green Standard Energy Star appliances, Geothermal HVAC and Solar Thermal Banking. Selection will be based on a firm's ability to work with the Tribe and experience of similar projects. All contractors will be required to comply with Section 3 and Davis Bacon. The project location is in close proximity to the existing Tribal facilities, on land owned by Wyandotte Nation. Interested parties should contact Mr. Ron Kaiser; Planning/Development Director at 918-678-6325. The Tribe must receive all qualification submissions for consideration before March 28, 2014.

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—Mahto Smith (center) summer 2013 participant from South Dakota

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THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales - from 4:00 - 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE - from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, OKC

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

MARCH 6
Wild Onion Dinner at D. D. Etchieson United Methodist Church, 416 W Seneca, Tahlequah, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30, \$7 plate

MARCH 7-8
Fort Sill Apache Tribe Centennial Celebration in Lawton and Apache

MARCH 8
Wild Onion Dinner at Angie Smith Memorial United Methodist Church, 400 SW 31, OKC, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wild Onion Dinner at Tohwali United Methodist

Church, west of Broken Bow off Highway 3, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. \$6/plate. Singing to begin at 7:00.

MARCH 15
8th Annual Pawnee Nation College Powwow at Pawnee Nation Multipurpose Complex. Call 918-762-3343 for more information

MARCH 15
Honor Dance for Osage Nation Princess Autumn Griffin Williams, Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, 1449 W. Main, Pawhuska. Gourd Dancing starts at 2:30 pm. War Dancing at 7:30pm. More info call Margie Williams 918-639-0427.

Wild Onion Dinner at Thlophlocco United Methodist Church, 8miles South of Okemah on Highway 27, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m., \$10 adults and \$5 children

Wild Onion Dinner at Big Cussetah United Methodist Church, east of Okmulgee on Highway 62 to Prairie Bell Road (3 miles), then south approximately 5 miles, 11:00 - 3:00 p.m., \$10 plate \$5 for children 10 & under, carryouts \$10.

Wild Onion Dinner at Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church, N. College, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$8 a plate. Info

call 918-834-1956 or see ad in this week's Native Times!

Wild Onion Dinner at Christ United Methodist Church, 315 S. Davis, Claremore, 10:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Wild Onion Dinner at Mary Lee Clark United Methodist Church, 1100 Howard Dr., Midwest City, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., \$8/plate

MARCH 21
Wild Onion Dinner at Fife Indian United Methodist Church, 1100 Eufaula St., Muskogee, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. \$8/plate.

MARCH 22
Wild Onion Dinner at Concharty United Methodist Church, 6 miles east of Highway 75 on Highway 16 to Bixby Road, 4 miles north on Bixby Road to Garfield Road. 11:00 - 3:00 p.m., \$10 adults, \$6 children 10 & under, \$10 to go.

Wild Onion Dinner at Norman First American United Methodist Church, 1950 Beaumont Dr., Norman

APRIL 4
NdN taco sale 11am-3pm, at Indian Fellowship Baptist Church: 6130 S. 58th W. Ave, Oakhurst. \$7 for a taco and dessert. Info or for delivery, call Mary @ 918-636-8394.

APRIL 5
Checotah Native Art Market, 9am-4pm at the Heartland Heritage Museum & Gallery, 116 N Broadway, Checotah. Paintings, beadwork, textiles, leather crafts, cultural items, jewel, music, demonstrations, Native food concessions and more. Free to the public. For information call Frankie Blagg, 918-916-9015

APRIL 25-27
United Cherokee 16th Annual Festival and Native American Powwow, 9:00AM 'til 5:00PM at 3550 Creek Path Road, Guntersville, Alabama 35976 Contact: (256) 582-2333 or ucanonline@bellsouth.net

JUNE 6-8, 2014
Chilocco Indian School Class of 1964 50th Year Reunion - The Chilocco Indian School class of 1964 will be celebrating their 50th year reunion at the annual June 2014 Chilocco reunion. For contact and planning purposes, the 1964 Chilocco graduates are requested to contact Charley Johnson, Jr., P.O. Box 531, Bixby, OK 74008 - Telephone No. (918) 366-6158, e-mail address is johnson6158@olp.net or Lucian (Jake) Larney, 524 S. 2nd St., Okemah, OK 74859, telephone No. (405) 401-8881, e-mail jake74868@hotmail.com.

New food labels would highlight calories, sugar

WASHINGTON (AP) – Those “Nutrition Facts” labels that are plastered on nearly every food package found in grocery stores are getting a new look.

Under label changes being proposed by the Obama administration, calories would be in larger, bolder type, and consumers for the first time would know whether foods have added sugars. Serving sizes would be updated to make them more realistic. A serving of ice cream, for example, would double to a full cup, closer to what people actually eat.

“Placing the most frequently viewed information in bold print to make it easier to identify is a great idea that should help consumers be less intimidated by using the labels,” Rachelle Holman, a registered dietitian with the Cherokee Nation, said. “The bold points will make teaching patients how to read the label easier. I always like to remind people to also read the ingredients list on the food label to help them make good food decisions.”

The proposed overhaul comes as science has shifted. While fat was the focus two decades ago when the labels first were created, nutritionists are now more concerned with how many calories we eat. And serving sizes have long been misleading, with many single-serving packages listing multiple servings, so the calorie count is lower.

Holman said food labels can be a wealth of information, but many people find the current versions to be overwhelming and confusing.

“Currently, the listed serving sizes are generally significantly smaller than what the average person eats,” Holman said. “Making the adjustments to the calories, fat and sodium to reflect typical intake may be a real eye opener to consumers – seeing what they are actually taking in. My hope is that this won’t prompt people to consume larger portions as some have grown accustomed to using currently listed serving sizes as their guide for intake.”

The idea isn’t that people should eat more; it’s that they should understand how many calories are in what they are actually eating. The Food and Drug Administration says that by law serving sizes must be based on actual consumption, not ideal consumption.

“Our guiding principle here is very simple, that you as a parent and a consumer should be able to walk into your local grocery store, pick up an item off the shelf and be able to tell whether it’s good for your family,” said first lady Michelle Obama, who was to join the FDA in announcing the proposed

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 2/3 cup (55g)
Servings Per Container About 8

Amount Per Serving	
Calories 230	Calories from Fat 40
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 8g	12%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	12%
Dietary Fiber 4g	16%
Sugars 1g	
Protein 3g	
Vitamin A	10%
Vitamin C	8%
Calcium	20%
Iron	45%

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily value may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Nutrition Facts

8 servings per container
Serving size 2/3 cup (55g)

Amount per 2/3 cup	
Calories	230
% DV*	
12%	Total Fat 8g
5%	Saturated Fat 1g
	Trans Fat 0g
0%	Cholesterol 0mg
7%	Sodium 160mg
12%	Total Carbs 37g
14%	Dietary Fiber 4g
	Sugars 1g
	Added Sugars 0g
	Protein 3g
10%	Vitamin D 2mcg
20%	Calcium 260mg
45%	Iron 8mg
5%	Potassium 235mg

* Footnote on Daily Values (DV) and calories reference to be inserted here.

OLD LABEL - VS - PROPOSED LABEL

Under label changes being proposed by the Obama administration, calories would be in larger, bolder type, and consumers for the first time would know whether foods have added sugars. Serving sizes would be updated to make them more realistic - a serving of ice cream, for example, would double to a full cup - which is closer to what people actually eat.

“Currently, the listed serving sizes are generally significantly smaller than what the average person eats,” said Rachelle Holman, a registered dietitian with the Cherokee Nation.

changes on Feb. 27 at the White House.

Mrs. Obama was making the announcement as part of her Let’s Move initiative to combat child obesity, which is celebrating its fourth anniversary. On Feb. 25, she announced new Agriculture Department rules that would reduce marketing of unhealthy foods in schools.

The new nutrition labels are likely several years away. The FDA will take comments on the proposal for 90 days, and a final rule could take another year. Once it’s final, the agency has proposed giving industry two years to comply.

The FDA projects food companies will have to pay around \$2 billion as they change the labels.

The Grocery Manufacturers Association, the industry group that represents the nation’s largest food companies, did not respond to any specific parts of the proposal but called it a “thoughtful review.”

GMA President Pamela Bailey also said it was important to the food companies that the labels “ultimately serve to inform, and not confuse, consumers.”

It was still not yet clear what the final labels would look like. The FDA offered two labels in its proposal – one that looks similar to the current version but is shorter and clearer and another that groups the nutrients into a “quick facts” category for things like fat, carbohydrates, sugars and proteins. There also would be an “avoid too much” category

for saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, sodium and added sugars; and a “get enough” section with vitamin D, potassium, calcium, iron and fiber.

Both versions list calories above all of those nutrients in a large, bold type.

The proposed rules would also overhaul serving sizes for soda and single-serving packages. Both 12-ounce and 20-ounce sodas would be considered one serving, and many single-serving packages – a bag of chips, a can of soup or a frozen entree, for example – would either be listed as a single serving or list nutrient information by serving and by container.

The inclusion of added sugars to the label was one of the biggest revisions. Nutrition advocates have long asked for that line on the label because it’s impossible for consumers to know how much sugar in an item is naturally occurring, like that in fruit and dairy products, and how much is added by the manufacturer. Think an apple vs. apple sauce, which comes in sweetened and unsweetened varieties.

According to the Agriculture Department’s 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, added sugars contribute an average of 16 percent of the total calories in U.S. diets. Though those naturally occurring sugars and the added sugars act the same in the body, the USDA says the added sugars are just empty calories while naturally occurring ones usually come along with other nutrients.

David Kessler, who was FDA commissioner when the first Nutrition Facts labels were unveiled in the early 1990s, said he thinks focusing on added sugars and calories will have a “demonstrative public health benefit.”

Kessler said the added sweetness, like added salt, drives overeating. And companies will adjust their recipes to get those numbers down.

“No food company wants products to look bad,” he said.

While some may ignore the panels, there’s evidence that more people are reading them in recent years as there has been a heightened interest in nutrition.

A USDA study released earlier this year said 42 percent of working adults used the panel always or most of the time in 2009 and 2010, up from 34 percent two years earlier. Older adults were more likely to use it.

C&A ‘Cooking with Commods’ program gets Notah Begay Foundation grant

CONCHO, Okla. – The Concho based Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes recently received the \$40,000 grant from the Notah Begay III foundation from Santa Ana Pueblo, NM. This award will support the efforts of the Diabetes Wellness Program’s Buffalo Cooking with Groceries/Commods Project.

The project is for Native American youth ages 12-18, living in rural communities in Western Oklahoma who want to learn how to cook. The project is aimed to help youth cook with buffalo, with the foods they receive from commodities and foods they purchase at the grocery store and make them healthier. The cooking classes will be set up inside a grocery store tour developed by dietitians that has been used a various summer camps in the state. Using the grocery store tour as a tool will teach the youth where to find the foods in the store and how to cook from scratch. Instructors will cook meals in class for tasting and the meals the students prepare in class will be taken home with instructions on how to finish cooking the

meal allowing for family participation and a sit down family style meal once week during the three week cooking classes. “This is a wonderful opportunity for our tribal youth to learn, practice, and improve a life skill that will benefit them for the future using a smart and innovative technique” said Nicolas Barton, Executive Director of Health for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. “I hope to see that it might possibly participants to be Food Network chefs and challengers.”

“The epidemic rates of type 2 diabetes and childhood obesity among Native Americans is so severe that our children’s generation may be the first generation not to outlive their parents” stated NB3F Executive Director, Crystal Echo Hawk. “We believe that The Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes initiative and tireless effort will ensure that Native American children buck the trends that are devastating the health of Native Americans and give hope and promise to a generation that it is possible to Live Healthy, Live Native.”

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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 20 + ISSUE 10

MARCH 10-14, 2014

Caddo Nation swears in new chair, Edwards claims seat

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

BINGER, Okla. – There is a new occupant in the chairman’s office at the Caddo Nation complex.

Anthony Cotter was sworn in as Caddo Nation chairman March 1 after defeating Dale Cotter by 24 votes in a Feb. 22 special election.

Originally from Anadarko, Cotter worked for the Choctaw Nation for more than 10 years. He and his wife life in Amber, about 45 minutes east of the Caddo Nation’s offices

Also sworn in to office were Secretary Marilyn Threlkeld, Fort Cobb Rep. Maureen Owings and Oklahoma City Rep. Jennifer Reeder.

With Cotter’s election, former interim Chairman Philip Smith will resume his duties as vice-chairman. As per the tribe’s removal procedures, Smith was temporarily elevated after a recall last September of Brenda Shemayme Edwards. In a statement dated March 6, Edwards maintains that she is still the tribe’s legitimate leader.

With two factions claiming to lead the tribe of 5,500 citizens, the Bureau of Indian Affairs designated the Caddo

Nation a “high risk contractor/grantee” late last year, placing its self-governance funding at risk.

Southern Plains Regional Director Terry Bruner did not respond to requests for comment.

The tribe is also awaiting answers from an investigation into two break-ins at its complex on successive December nights. Both factions maintain that the other is at fault for the smashed windows, cut wires and shell casings that littered the property. An open records request for documents related to the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ investigation into the break-ins was denied.

President proposes \$11.9B FY 2015 Interior budget

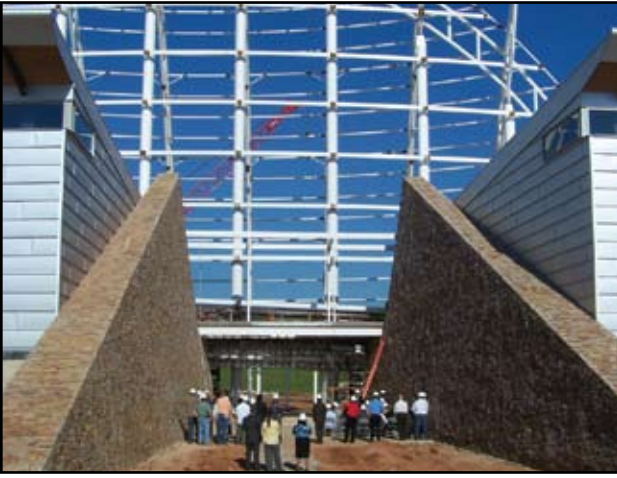
■ Proposal for fiscal year 2015 fully funds contract support costs, launches the “Tiwahe Initiative” to address family welfare and poverty issues, invests in education, economic development, and sustainable stewardship of natural resources, and advances a strategy to reduce incarceration in Indian Country.

DOI MEDIA RELEASE

WASHINGTON – President Obama’s fiscal year 2015 budget request for Indian Affairs, which includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, is \$2.6 billion – a \$33.6 million increase above the FY 2014 enacted level. The request maintains the president’s commitment to meet the federal government’s responsibilities to the 566 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes by promoting stronger tribal economies, communities and families.

On June 26, President Obama appointed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell as the Chairwoman of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. To underscore the president’s commitment to effective partnerships with Native communities, the council was established by executive order to enable federal agencies to work more collaboratively and effectively with federally recognized tribes to advance their economic and social priorities. The White House Council is a comprehensive multi-year effort to improve conditions throughout Indian Country. Informed by consultation with the tribes and reflective of tribal priorities, Interior’s 2015 budget continues the initiative’s focus on improved self-determination for

See DOI on Page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

After nearly two decades, and more than \$95 million spent on the 210-acre site, museum supporters are seeking what they contend is the final \$40 million in state funding needed to finish the project.

Okla. museum funding plan still faces tough battle

By SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – A giant earthen mound near the banks of the Oklahoma River greets tens of thousands of possibly curious motorists each day at the busy crossroads of Interstates 35 and 40 near downtown Oklahoma City. Beneath it sits a sprawling, unfinished shell of a museum that was envisioned two decades ago as a world-class destination to house historic artifacts and interactive learning experiences from the state’s 39 federally recognized Indian tribes.

Whether construction resumes on the mothballed project will come down to the 72 members of the House Republican caucus, many of whom are wary of committing more money to a project that seems to have an insatiable appetite for state appropriations.

See MUSEUM on Page 2

DEEP CONNECTION?



COURTESY PHOTO

On March 6, Christina Fallin, the 26-year-old daughter of Gov. Mary Fallin, posted this picture on Instagram and Facebook of herself in a fake headdress during a So6ix magazine photo shoot at Remington Park for Oklahoma City musician Josh Sallee.

Gov’s daughter dons headdress for photo, catches heat from Native community

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – A recent photograph of a member of Oklahoma’s first family has many Natives demanding a real apology.

On March 6, Christina Fallin, the 26-year-old daughter of Gov. Mary Fallin, posted a picture on Instagram and Facebook of herself in a fake headdress during a So6ix magazine photo shoot at Remington Park for Oklahoma City musician Josh Sallee. Sallee has since publicly distanced himself from the photograph.

According to an Associated Press report, Fallin is currently a marketing consultant for and appears in a local magazine that features fashion trends, health tips and beauty advice.

The photograph went viral after it was shared on Twitter by an Oklahoma City-based blog, The Lost Ogle, with the tweet: “I think I found my new avatar. So classy.” The original picture has since been deleted from Christina Fallin’s Instagram account, but has been recycled in memes mocking Fallin, her

mother and the state’s relationship with tribes.

In a statement released through her band Friday morning, Fallin apologized and defended her decision to wear the headdress, claiming a “deeper and deeper connection” with Native American culture as she ages, despite initially including the phrase “appropriate curation.”

“Though it may not have been our own, this aesthetic has affected us emotionally in a very real and very meaningful way,” she wrote. “Please forgive us if we innocently adorn ourselves in your beautiful things. We do so with the deepest respect. We hold a sincere reverence for and genuine spiritual connection to Native American values.”

Like the photo that sparked the controversy, Fallin’s statement has since been taken down from Facebook and Instagram. A spokesman for the band, Steven Battles, did not respond to requests for additional information, including the photographer’s name. Gov. Mary Fallin’s office did not respond to requests for comment.

See HEADDRESS on Page 4



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MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

After nearly two decades, and more than \$95 million spent on the 210-acre site, museum supporters are seeking what they contend is the final \$40 million in state funding needed to finish the project. The Senate voted 30-17 to take \$40 million from the state's Unclaimed Property Fund, money that will be used to match another \$40 million in pledges from Oklahoma City, each of the state's 39 tribes, and corporate and individual donors.

"I've got \$40 million worth of donors who have been waiting three years for this to get done," said Blake Wade, the museum's executive director, who has helped secure the private pledges and shepherded various plans to complete the museum through the Legislature in the last two years. "They're anxious to get going on the project. We're ready to go as soon as we get Gov. Mary Fallin to sign the bill, but we've got to get through the House first."

The 29 Democrats in the House already committed unanimously to supporting the bill, but newly elected House Speaker Jeff Hickman says he won't push the project forward without overwhelming support within his own caucus.

"It's cost us a lot of money. It's going to cost us a lot more, and something has to be done, but until there's a great deal of support on the Republican side of the aisle, I don't think it really matters if there's 29 votes committed on the Democratic side," said Hickman. "We need to have support within our caucus, and right now I'm not hearing from our members that the timing is right this year with our budget situation we're in, to do that."

Wade and other museum supporters, including tribal leaders and former University of Oklahoma and Dallas Cowboys football coach Barry Switzer, are expected to begin meeting with individual legislators as early as this week and encouraging them to support the project. While many rank-and-file legislators support the museum's completion, it could be difficult

vote to defend back home in their districts, hundreds of miles away from the state's capital.

"I can promise you this, out of (Hickman's) 72-member caucus, there are at least 22 members who would vote for that bill in its current form, which means it would go to the governor's desk and finally, after all these years, it will get done," said House Democratic Leader Scott Inman, D-Oklahoma City.

"But I think you've got a big faction of their caucus that just doesn't like the idea. Then you have a big faction that like the idea, but don't want to be on record voting for it, because this primary environment is pretty toxic for a lot of the members, and this could be an issue used in a Republican primary. You weigh those two factors, and it makes it hard (to bring the bill for a vote in the full House)."

Another problem facing Hickman is a push by some Tulsa-area members for \$40 million to construct a popular culture museum in Tulsa. And if Tulsa and Oklahoma City each get a \$40 million project, Hickman is expected to hear a request for more funding for projects in rural areas.

"The political reality for me is that the \$40 million cultural center deal costs \$120 million," Hickman said. "It's \$40 million for Oklahoma City. It's \$40 million for Tulsa. And it's \$40 million for the rest of the state. Because that's what my members are going to say."

Hickman also said his caucus hasn't reached a consensus on a separate, \$160 million bond issue to pay for repairs to the state Capitol. That bill has cleared the Senate, but Hickman said his members are mulling different options, including the possibility of using a mix of cash and bonds, or that the entire proposal be sent to a vote of the people. "What I'm hearing from members is that they want to keep their options open for dealing with this, because I don't think we have a final plan," he said. "Obviously we'll have to negotiate with the Senate and the governor on what we want to do. I know they've made their decision on a bond issue, but our members still have a lot of questions."

Poarch Band Creeks give \$250K to Alabama AG candidate

By KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The Poarch Band of Creek Indians gave heavily to the Democratic challenger for attorney general who opposes incumbent Luther Strange's efforts to close the tribe's casinos.

Montgomery Rep. Joe Hubbard, D-Montgomery, filed campaign finance reports this week showing he received \$250,000 from political action committees fueled by the Poarch Creeks.

Hubbard received a total of \$250,000 from three PACs operated by lobbyist John Teague. The PACs received almost all of their money from the Poarch Creeks. The money represents the bulk of the \$326,827 that Hubbard raised in the first month of his campaign for attorney general.

The Poarch Band operates electronic bingo casinos in Montgomery, Wetumpka and Atmore.

Strange has encouraged the National Indian Gaming Commission to take action against the Poarch Creek's three casinos, arguing the tribe's electronic bingo machines are more like slot machines and should not be allowed without state permission. He filed a lawsuit in 2013 seeking to shut down the three casinos, accusing the tribe of "operating, advancing, and profiting from unlawful gambling activity."

Hubbard on Friday said Strange was wasting state resources. He said the Poarch Band is a federally recognized tribe and not under Alabama jurisdiction.

"Luther Strange has no more business going in there and telling them how to run their business than he does going down to Mexico City and telling Mexicans how to run their domino games. Trying to run those little old ladies out of those bingo parlors is a waste of precious resources that we can't afford to waste," he said.

An email requesting comment

from Strange's campaign was not immediately returned.

Strange said in a statement last year that federal inaction regarding Indian bingo casinos left him no action but to file the lawsuit.

"As I have said many times, my office will use every tool at its disposal to stop illegal gambling in Alabama, wherever it is located. This lawsuit against the Poarch Band is one of those tools," Strange said.

Hubbard announced his challenge to the Strange last month. Strange is still far outgunning Hubbard in the money raise. Strange this week reported a campaign balance of nearly \$1.2 million.

The Poarch Creeks, now the state's chief operator of electronic bingo games, have become a major player on the Alabama political stage. The tribe has made \$837,500 in campaign contributions since June, according to campaign finance records.

KU professor documented Kaw language

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Robert L. Rankin, a University of Kansas linguistics professor who died recently, will be remembered for his efforts to document the Kaw language, leaders of the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma said.

"If it wasn't for his work, we wouldn't have our language," said Jim Pepper Henry, a Kaw citizen who is director/CEO of the Heard Museum of Native Cultures and Art in Phoenix. "... You can't put a price on something like that."

Rankin, who taught at the Kansas from 1969 through 2005, died Feb. 24 at a Kansas City hospice at age 75, according to the Bowen Donaldson Home for Funerals in Tifton, Ga.

The Kaw, also known as the Konza and Kanza, claimed a territory that covered about two-fifths of Kansas and parts of Nebraska and Missouri. By 1873, the U.S. government was forcing the tribe off its 250,000-acre reservation near Council Grove to Oklahoma. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Kaw children were sent to boarding schools and forbidden to speak the language or observe customs.

After Rankin received his bachelor's degree in French and Spanish from Emory University and a master's and doctoral degree in linguistics from the University of Chicago, he was invited in 1974 to attend a Kaw family gathering

in Shidler, Okla., when there were few surviving speakers of the Kaw language left, The Wichita Eagle reported. Rankin met three Kaw who still spoke the language. He also recorded one of them reciting the Lord's Prayer in Kaw and would later produce 28 reel-to-reel tapes in the Kaw language. The tapes were dubbed, digitized and converted to CDs in 1996.

Rankin continued working with Kaw, serving as a consultant with language directors and helping publish the "Kanza Reader."

"My hope is that through our language and culture, the Kaw Nation will live on," said Pauline Sharp, who serves on the Kaw Nation Culture Committee.

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—Mahto Smith (center) summer 2013 participant from South Dakota

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DOI

Continued from Page 1

tribal nations, safety of Indian communities, trust resource management, and post-secondary, elementary, and secondary education.

“The president’s fiscal year 2015 budget request continues to support Indian Affairs’ efforts to advance tribal self-governance and self-determination,” Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said. “In a budgetary climate that remains challenging, President Obama has made Indian tribes a priority, providing for the prudent management of tribal energy and natural resources, building stronger tribal economies, stabilizing families and creating safer tribal communities, expanding educational opportunities and increasing student achievement, restoring tribal homelands, and protecting tribal treaty rights.”

Among the highlights, the budget proposal fully funds contract support costs that tribes incur as managers of programs serving Native Americans and proposes a new Tiwahe Initiative, which integrates social services and job training programs to address the interrelated issues of poverty and child and family welfare. The President’s Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative would further invest in economic development and education in Indian Country to promote strong, resilient tribal economies and dramatically improve educational opportunities.

The Strengthening Tribal Nations Initiative is one of the Interior’s priorities, involving a comprehensive effort to advance the president’s commitments to American Indians and Alaska Natives to improve conditions throughout Indian Country. The 2015 request includes \$26.5 million in program increases for four areas: Advancing Nation-to-Nation Relationships, Supporting Indian Families and Protecting Indian Country, Supporting Sustainable Stewardship of Trust Resources, and Advancing Indian Education.

The request also proposes a total of \$922.6 million in Tribal Priority Allocations, an increase of \$19.3 million over the FY 2014 enacted level.

The FY 2015 budget request for Contract Support, including the Indian Self-Determination Fund, is \$251 million, a \$4 million increase over the FY 2014 enacted level. The FY 2015 budget request fully funds estimated 2015 contract support costs.

The Indian Self-determination and Education Assistance Act allows federally recognized tribes to operate federal programs under contract with the United States. Known as 638 contracts, they are an expression of the U.S. government’s policy to support tribal self-determination and self-governance. Tribes rely on contract support funds to pay the costs of administering and managing contracted programs. The availability of contract support cost funding is a key factor in a tribe’s decision and ability to assume responsibility for operating federal programs.

To facilitate 638 contracting, the request includes an additional \$1.2 million to increase services provided by the Department’s Office of Indirect Cost Negotiations, which negotiates indirect cost rates with non-federal entities.

To further enhance the nation-to-nation relationship, Indian Affairs is continuing its comprehensive look at federal acknowledgment regulations, with the intent of publishing a proposed rule in 2014.

The FY 2015 budget also proposes language to clarify the secretary of the Interior’s authority to take land into trust and to amend the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 to reduce delays in processing fee-to-trust applications.

The budget proposes an \$11.6 million increase for the Tiwahe Initiative to carry out the president’s commitment to protect and promote prosperous tribal communities. “Tiwahe is Lakota for “family.” The initiative provides a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the interrelated problems of poverty, violence, and substance abuse in American Indian communities. Through this, social services and job training programs will be integrated and expanded to address child and family welfare, job training, and incarceration issues, with the goal of promoting family stability and strengthening tribal communities. The initiative includes:

- An increase of \$10 million to build on BIA’s social services and Indian child welfare programs with the goal of empowering American Indian and Alaska Native individuals and families in health



WHITE HOUSE PHOTO

President Barack Obama greets audience members on Nov. 13 after remarks during the 2013 Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

and family stability, thereby strengthening tribal communities as a whole,

- \$1 million to develop a program to effectively target funding and evaluate outcomes in meeting social service needs in Indian Country, and
- A program increase of \$550,000 to expand job placement and training programs.

The BIA’s Housing Improvement Program will continue to provide services which result in more functional dwellings and institute changes to alleviate overcrowding in Indian homes.

To promote public safety and community resilience in tribal communities, the 2015 budget request includes resources to build on BIA Law Enforcement’s recent successes in reducing violent crime by setting a new Priority Performance Goal to lower repeat incarcerations in Indian Country.

A pilot program will be implemented to lower repeat incarceration rates in tribally operated jail on three reservations – Red Lake in Minnesota, Ute Mountain in Colorado and Duck Valley in Nevada – by a total of 3 percent by Sept. 30, 2015.

The BIA’s Alternatives to Incarceration Strategy will seek to address causes of repeat offenses, such as substance abuse and lack of adequate social service support, by utilizing alternative courts, increased treatment opportunities, probation programs, and interagency and intergovernmental partnerships with tribal, state and federal stakeholders.

Taking land into trust is one of the most important functions Interior undertakes on behalf of federally recognized tribes, whose homelands are essential to their peoples’ health, safety and economic well-being.

The BIA’s trust programs assist tribes and individual Indian landowners in the management, development and protection of trust lands and natural resource assets totaling about 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface mineral estates.

The 2015 budget request includes increases totaling \$3.6 million to provide support for the stewardship of natural resources in Indian Country, and continues support for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and important landscapes, the sustainable stewardship of land, water, ocean and energy resources, and for building tribal resilience to climate change. This includes:

- An increase of \$2 million, for natural resource information tools to advance landscape-scale resource management in coordination with DOI’s and other federal efforts, and
- An increase of \$1.6 million, for deferred maintenance on irrigation projects to bring drought relief to affected tribal lands.

The budget affirms the administration’s commitment to address tribal water rights and needs in Indian Country, and includes \$12.3 million in increases for the implementation of Indian land and water rights settlements across DOI. The FY 2015 budget request for Indian Land and Water

Claim Settlements funded through the BIA is \$35.7 million, equal with the FY 2014 enacted level, and includes:

- \$4 million for the Navajo Water Resources Development Trust Fund, a reduction of \$2 million, reflecting projected need;
- An increase of \$6.6 million over 2014 for the Taos Pueblo Water Settlement to include indexing requirements;
- An increase of \$1.2 million for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project to meet projected 2015 funding needs; and
- \$6.2 million for first-year funding of the Aamodt Settlement enacted as part of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010.

Since funding for the Duck Valley Water Rights Settlement was completed in 2014, no funding is requested for FY 2015.

The FY 2015 budget request of \$794.4 million for BIE is a \$5.6 million increase over the 2014 enacted level and advances the department’s continuing commitment to Indian education. The 2015 budget proposes increases totaling \$3.8 million for elementary and secondary school education activities funded by the BIE and for education construction:

- A program increase of \$500,000 for Johnson-O’Malley education grants to support a new student count in 2015 and to provide funding for a projected increase in the number of students eligible for grants;
- \$1 million to support ongoing evaluation of the BIE school system to enable improvements in educational outcomes, organizational management, and program performance; and
- An increase of \$2.3 million to fund site development at the Beatrice Rafferty School, a BIE-funded K-8 contract day school operated by the Passamaquoddy Tribe-Pleasant Point in Perry, Maine, for which design funding was provided in the FY 2014 budget.

Tribal colleges and universities provide the tribal communities where they are located with the facilities and resources to overcome barriers to higher education and to teach community members skills they need for success.

The FY 2015 budget request for Indian post-secondary education includes increases totaling \$2.3 million for BIE-funded post-secondary programs;

- An increase of \$300,000 to meet the needs of growing enrollment at BIE-funded tribal technical colleges; and
- Program increases of \$1.7 million for fellowship and training opportunities for post-graduate study in the sciences and \$250,000 for summer pre-law preparatory program scholarships.

The BIE funds 183 elementary and secondary day and boarding schools, of which two-thirds are tribally operated, located on 64 reservations in 23 states and serving approximately 41,000 students.

It also funds 27 tribal colleges and universities and two tribal technical colleges, operates two post-secondary institutions of higher learning and provides higher education scholarships.

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Hard Rock filing indicates interest in NJ casino

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Having proposed and then scrapped a plan to build a casino in Atlantic City, the Seminole Indian tribe of Florida appears to be interested in the New Jersey gambling market again.

The tribe, through its Hard Rock franchise, has made filings with state casino regulators indicating it may take another shot at establishing a presence here.

Hard Rock, the global casino and entertainment company, asked New Jersey gambling regulators for a ruling on whether the tribe would need to qualify for a casino license should the company acquire or build one here. The company has been rumored for months to be interested in the struggling Revel Casino Hotel, whose owners are considering selling it.

In a ruling issued last month, the state Division of Gaming Enforcement said the tribe itself does not need to qualify for a license but listed several Hard Rock executives who would need to, including company president and CEO James Allen. Neither Allen nor a Revel spokeswoman responded to messages seeking comment.

The company's filings indicated it planned to seek a statement of compliance, a preliminary step in determining who needs to seek and hold a casino license.

The New York Post reported earlier this year that Hard Rock is interested in making a bid for Revel. Atlantic City's



COURTESY PHOTO
President Barack Obama greets audience members on Nov. 13 after remarks during the 2013 Tribal Nations Conference at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

newest casino operated for less than a year before filing for Chapter 11 protection. Last year, its owners said they were considering “strategic options,” which in the casino industry usually includes a sale or a bankruptcy filing.

Kerry Langan, a spokeswoman for the gambling division, said Hard Rock has already applied for a statement of compliance under the state Casino Control Act.

“That process allows an entity and persons associated with it to be investigated prior to an acquisition of a casino interest, and based on the investigation, they can be determined to

meet certain licensure or qualification criteria,” she said. “As an initial step, Hard Rock sought rulings as to the entities and individuals necessary for it to obtain a statement of compliance.”

Hard Rock previously dipped its toe into the waters of Atlantic City's gambling market but quickly pulled it back. In November 2011 it was accepted into a pilot program New Jersey was operating to permit construction of smaller “boutique”-style casinos that contained fewer than the 500 hotel rooms required by current regulations.

A musical history museum with rock ‘n’ roll memorabilia was a key part of Hard Rock's proposal. Its hotel would have started at 208 rooms and eventually expanded to 850. The first phase of the project would have cost about \$465 million.

But less than a year later, and without putting a shovel into the ground, Hard Rock scrapped the idea, “due to current market conditions.”

The company said it has “not eliminated this location for a future endeavor.”

Atlantic City's continued decline has made properties less expensive. Revel cost \$2.4 billion to build, but in a distressed asset sale it would presumably sell for far less than the nearly half-billion dollars Hard Rock was prepared to spend on a much smaller casino. Acquiring Revel would get Hard Rock into the market at a steep discount and qualify it for an Internet gambling license.

Tribes seek to hold ground ahead of new NY casinos

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — With New York state about to take bids for its first non-Indian casinos, tribes looking to hold their ground have been upgrading their existing casinos and exploring new ones.

The Seneca Indian Nation, which operates three casinos in Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Salamanca under a 2002 compact with the state, bought 32 acres outside Rochester last week for a potential fourth location.

A day later, the Oneida Nation unveiled a \$15 million investment in new cash slot machines to replace prepay terminals and a revamped loyalty program at its 20-year-old Turning Stone casino in Verona.

The Seneca and Oneida sites could face competition from a \$350 million non-Indian casino, hotel and entertainment complex envisioned roughly midway between them in a sliver of the state separating the Seneca exclusivity zone and Oneida exclusivity zone, which also grants gaming rights to the

Cayuga Indian Nation, whose reservation lies within it.

“Our location, which is virtually midway between Syracuse and Rochester, is a very attractive location because it's between two population centers and it's connected via the Thruway,” said Juris Basens, vice president for casino operations at Rochester-based Wilmorite, one of several developers who have made public their plans to apply for one of the first non-Indian casino licenses to be awarded later this year.

Seneca officials, who will likely need state and federal approval for a fourth casino, said plans for the new Monroe County property have yet to be developed, but Cathy Walker, president and chief executive of Seneca Gaming Corp., appeared unfazed by the prospect of a casino two counties over.

“The market in the Rochester region is underserved, and there is sufficient market for all to do well,” Walker said.

Oneida spokesman Joel Barkin said the investment in Turning Stone was among the largest in years and follows last year's

\$25 million addition of an entertainment and restaurant complex. “This was done in response to guest feedback and to make sure we're at the cutting edge of the gaming experience,” Barkin said.

Agreements reached between Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the state's tribal leaders last year preserve vast sections in western, central and northern New York as “exclusivity zones” for tribal development only. The Seneca, Mohawk and Oneida Indian nations currently have a total of five casinos in those areas.

New York is in line for up to seven full-scale non-Indian casinos after voters in November approved a constitutional amendment to expand casino gambling as a way to create jobs, generate revenue for schools and ease property taxes.

The state's request for proposals is expected this month for the first round of as many as four casinos to be built in designated upstate areas in the Catskills, Southern Tier and Albany region. Developers have already announced proposals for casinos in Nichols, near the Pennsylvania border,

Binghamton and the Ulster County towns of Ellenville and Kerhonkson. The state's Gaming Commission, headed by Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges President Mark Gearan, is expected to appoint members to a casino siting board when it meets. Adding to the recent casino debate this past week was a resolution by the Saratoga Springs City Council opposing a Las Vegas-style casino in that thoroughbred racing city, which is among those being eyed by developers.

“For me, quality of life doesn't mean more gambling culture,” said Jonathon Newell, leader of The Dirty Harri Band, one of several artists who have joined in opposition.

Meanwhile, an online petition by the No More Casinos Coalition, with support from Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack and Batavia Downs, two of the state's nine racetrack/video gaming halls, had drawn more than 1,800 signatures in opposition of a fourth Seneca Nation casino. Lawmakers in Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties have opposed the Seneca plans, saying they would harm the Batavia track.

HEADDRESS

Continued from Page 1

Leaders for several Oklahoma tribes declined to comment on the photograph. However, many Oklahomans, both Native and non-Native, took to Facebook and Twitter to express their disgust with both the photograph and statement, seen by many as a non-apology.

“I don't see ignorance at all,” said Fairfax, Okla., native and former Miss Indian Oklahoma Jessica Harjo. “If I did, I would see a picture of her wearing this at some party or with a group of friends or in a casual situation. No, I see her deliberately posed like an old chief in a photo from the past, stoic face, the whole bit, which takes my respect level way down. Or at least for the photographer who set it up that way.”

Several Plains tribes now based in Oklahoma still use headdresses in their ceremonies. Historically, they were worn by warriors and chiefs who earned that right through their actions. Women rarely, if ever, wore them.

“Not only tribal headgear, but tribal wear at all is usually very sacred to Native Americans and usually part of ceremonial (events),” Louis Fowler of Oklahoma City, who is Choctaw, told the Associated Press. “The fact that Christina Fallin even titled it ‘appropriate cultururation’ means that she kind of knew what she was doing. There's a big difference between doing it stupidly and doing it knowingly.”

Oklahoma ranks second in the nation in the total number of Native American residents.

Fla. House gambling bill would not allow casinos

By GARY FINEOUT
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A bid to bring major casinos to South Florida was dealt a significant setback under a sweeping gambling proposal rolled out by the Republican-controlled Florida House.

The bill, sponsored by the GOP chairman who is overseeing gambling legislation, would create a statewide commission to oversee the multi-billion dollar industry.

But it does not authorize the creation of two Las Vegas-styled casinos. A Senate proposal would allow resort casinos in both Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Instead the House would leave it up to voters to decide if casinos could ever come to the Sunshine State.

That's because the House is also proposing a constitutional amendment that would require voter approval to for any future expansions of gambling.

An amendment requires a yes vote by 60 percent of voters in order to pass.

Rep. Robert Schenck, R-Spring Hill, and sponsor of the bill called the House plan a “responsible proposal.” He added that would it also “clean up significant and glaring loopholes in current law.” Schenck said that any gambling bill considered during the session must be accompanied by the constitutional amendment.

The House proposal would also appear to do little to undo the current compact between the state and the Seminole Tribe of Florida that currently brings in more than \$200 million a year to the state.

The tribe operates several casinos around the state, including the large Hard Rock casino in Tampa. The tribe inked a deal with former Gov. Charlie Crist that allowed slot machines and card games such as blackjack. The main portion of that compact, however, expires in 2015 and it's not clear if Gov. Rick Scott plans to begin negotiating

with the Seminoles anytime soon.

The decision of House Republicans to throw out a starkly different proposal from their Senate counterparts could be another sign that the Legislature may be unable to yet again reach any agreement on gambling. The annual 60-day session starts on Tuesday.

The House killed a bill two years ago to bring resort casinos to the state, but last year legislative leaders agreed to undertake a major study of the state's gambling industry.

Some in Florida's business community, including political heavyweights such as Disney, remain steadfastly opposed to any gambling expansion. All sides caught up in the fight over gambling, have poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into campaign accounts.

Sen. Garrett Richter, R-Naples and chairman of the Senate Gaming Committee, said it may be a few weeks before the Senate gambling proposal is ready to “leave the runway.”

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Remembering the great Native American journalists



NOTES FROM INDIAN COUNTRY

By Tim Giago (Nanwica Kciji)
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A handful of Native Americans that have spent their lives as newspaper reporters, editors or publishers are wondering where journalism is headed in Indian Country. I can't answer that question, but I would like to give a shout-out to the great Indian journalists I have known.

Mark Trahan of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe of Idaho started with the tribal newspaper at Fort Hall, the Sho-Ban News, and went to several major daily newspapers including the Arizona Republic where he was on a team of reporters that nearly won the Pulitzer Prize for reporting on Indian issues, and ended up at the Seattle-Post Intelligencer, a great newspaper that just could not survive the Internet assault and folded several years ago.

Laverne Sheppard, also a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe and former editor of the Sho-Ban News, was another great and gifted Indian journalist. The last editorial she wrote for the Sho-Ban News was a classic that moved me to tears. In it she told of how she felt seated at her newspaper desk for the last time and it was written with passion that only one who has smelled the ink of a freshly printed newspaper can understand.

Lisa Snell is still keeping her nose

to the printing press at the Native American Times in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Her weekly newspaper is in print and online.

One of the truly great contemporary news reporters was, Jodi Lee Rave, from the Three Affiliated Tribes at Fort Berthold, N. D., who decided to retire from the daily Missoulan in Montana to write a book. Ms. Rave started out as every Native American cub reporter should, at an Indian newspaper in North Dakota called "The Head of the Herd." At the same newspaper was a man named Ron Holt, Nez Perce, who went on to become the first, and I think only, Native American to ever own a commercial television station. His FOX-TV station was located in Billings, Mont. Holt is now retired and raising mischief on his home reservation.

Not to be overlooked as great Indian news reporters and editors are Avis Little Eagle, now a member of the Standing Rock Tribal Council and the current owner and publisher of the Teton Times in McLaughlin, S. D., a weekly newspaper she is thinking about closing after 12 years of publication. Ms. Little Eagle chose the name "Indian Country Today" when I changed the name of my former newspaper the Lakota Times to Indian Country Today.

Amanda Takes War Bonnet, former managing editor of Indian Country Today is doing consultant work for various Indian education organizations and is semi-retired. And up in North Dakota, a wonderful lady that should not be forgotten, Harriet Skye, a Hunkpapa from Standing Rock, is still lending her reportorial skills to students at the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck. She was the first Native American to ever host a weekly television show in North Dakota. At the same Indian college is Shirley Bordeaux, a Sicangu, a former managing editor of the original Lakota

Times, and a great news reporter in her own right.

Richard LaCourse, Yakama, now deceased, and Charles Trimble, Oglala Lakota, can probably be called the godfathers of all contemporary Indian reporters. Other names that follow are Rose Robinson, Hopi, (deceased) Suzanne Harjo, Muskogee, Tom Arviso, Navajo, Editor of the Navajo Times, Minnie Two Shoes, (deceased), formerly with the Wotanin Wowapi newspaper at Fort Peck, Montana, Gemma Lockhart, Sicangu and Shirley Sneve, Sicangu, two Lakota women and former print journalists, who breathed Indian life into South Dakota Public Radio and Television, Adrian Louis, Paiute, teacher, author and former managing editor of the original Lakota Times, Dan Agent, Cherokee, Leta Rector, Cherokee, Mike Burgess, Comanche, Conroy Chino, Acoma Pueblo, Mary Kim Titla, Apache, and Tom Casey, non-Indian, who has gone through heaven and hell to keep KILI-FM Radio at Pine Ridge on the airwaves, but he also founded and edited the Eyapaha, the Oglala Lakota College newspaper more than 30 years ago.

I close with Loren Tapahe, Navajo, who was publisher of the Navajo Times when it became the only Indian newspaper to ever go daily. Tapahe and I traveled to Rochester, N. Y. in 1983, to meet with Gerald Sasse at the Gannett Foundation to raise the money we used to start the Native American Journalists Association. I am sure I may have left out some great ones and if I did, forgive me.

There are probably 200 Indian newspapers in America that are still publishing, papers that have to fight tribal politicians every day, papers that struggle to get funding every year, but papers that are so important to the people of the Indian reservations that they serve. Most people would never know the people I write about, but in the small world of Indian newspapers and journal-

ists, they are legion.

With the advent of the Internet, blogs, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, there is no crystal ball to show where newspapers or news reporters are headed. Many of us Indian journalists still feel that there is a place for our reporting and for our newspapers. The Internet is not as available on Indian reservations as it is to the rest of America so newspapers and Indian radio are still the main sources of spreading the news.

In the end I present an eagle feather to all of the Native reporters, editors and publishers, living and dead that have given me and my colleagues giant shoulders to stand on. And head and shoulders above them all was my mentor and friend Rupert Costo, the Cahuilla Indian from California who was the editor and publisher of Wassaja and the Indian Historian Press in San Francisco in the 1960 and 70s. He set an example by writing fierce, independent editorials that have served as an example to me all of these years. He took the establishment and shook it by its neck without fear. I was proud to work for him and in a small way, follow his example.

Indian newspapers and radio stations are needed now more than ever. The efforts to extinguish treaty rights and Native sovereignty are growing and Native Americans need a forum to respond to these new Indian wars. There is no one else who will do it for us.

Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota, is the editor and publisher of Native Sun News. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard with the Class of 1991. His book Children Left Behind was awarded the Bronze Medal by Independent Book Publishers. He was the first Native American ever inducted into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2007. He can be reached at editor@nsweekly.com

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Wyandotte Nation is requesting the services of a professional contractor to build two (2) duplex units in the Wyandotte Nation Community near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. This project is funded in part by NAHASDA (Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act) through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Details of this project will be included in the bid packet. Professional Contractors for consideration must be able to provide adequate liability insurance, workman's comp, and subscribe to federal requirements regarding labor. Indian Preference will apply. Indian Preference documentation will need to be submitted to the Housing Department before submitting the actual bid. Selection will be based on the ability to deliver a quality product and on the ability to work well with the Housing staff. Interested parties may pick up bid packets at the Wyandotte Nation Housing Department located at 64600 E. 145 Rd, Wyandotte, OK, (Monday-Friday between 8:00am and 3:30pm) beginning February 25, 2014. All proposals must be received by March 20th, 2014 to be considered.

Wyandotte Nation is requesting the services of a professional Architect to design and develop plans/specifications for a Culture Center/Museum building project, funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Details of this project will be made available to interested parties upon request. Indian preference will be observed, and at this time, only proposals from qualified Indian owned professional architect firms will be accepted. The proposed project will be constructed using Green Standard Energy Star appliances, Geothermal HVAC and Solar Thermal Banking. Selection will be based on a firm's ability to work with the Tribe and experience of similar projects. All contractors will be required to comply with Section 3 and Davis Bacon. The project location is in close proximity to the existing Tribal facilities, on land owned by Wyandotte Nation. Interested parties should contact Mr. Ron Kaiser; Planning/Development Director at 918-678-6325. The Tribe must receive all qualification submissions for consideration before March 28, 2014.



EVENTS

*Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Class - through April 23, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 302, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales -- from 4:00 -- 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE -- from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, OKC

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

MARCH 11
Northeastern State University's American Indian Heritage Committee will hold their Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser and Indian Taco Luncheon on Tuesday, March 11 at the NSU University Center Ballroom on the second floor. Both the luncheon and auction will begin at 11 a.m. Parking attendants will be available to direct off-campus guests to reserved visitor parking spaces south of the UC during the event. Indian Taco Luncheon is scheduled from 11 a.m. -- 2 p.m. and is \$8 per serving. No carry-outs are permitted on the luncheon.

The Silent Auction is from 11 a.m. -- 5:30 p.m. and will feature artwork, jewelry, float trips, and more. Admission to the display area is free of charge. Bids open at 11 a.m. and winning bid items can be picked up after 5:30 p.m. All proceeds from this event will benefit the 42nd Annual Symposium on the American Indian scheduled April 7-12, as well as the 5K Resilience Run and the 2014 NSU Powwow on April 11-12. For more information about this event or those scheduled in the future, please contact NSU's Center for Tribal Studies at 918-444-4350 or email tribalstudies@nsuok.edu. For Symposium information visit www.nsuok.edu/symposium and find NSU's CTS on Facebook and Twitter.

MARCH 15
8th Annual Pawnee Nation College Powwow at Pawnee Nation Multipurpose Complex. Call 918-762-3343 for more information

MARCH 15
Honor Dance for Osage Nation Princess Autumn Griffin Williams, Wah-Zha-Zhi Cultural Center, 1449 W. Main, Pawhuska. Gourd Dancing starts at 2:30 pm. War Dancing at 7:30pm. More info call Margie Williams 918-639-0427.

Wild Onion Dinner at Thlopthlocco United Methodist Church, 8miles South of Okemah on Highway 27, 3:00 -- 7:00 p.m., \$10 adults and \$5 children

Wild Onion Dinner at Big Cussetah United Methodist Church, east of Okmulgee on Highway 62 to Prairie Bell Road (3 miles), then south approximately 5 miles, 11:00 -- 3:00 p.m., \$10 plate \$5 for children 10 & under, carryouts \$10.

Wild Onion Dinner at Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church, N. College, 11:00 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m. \$8 a plate. Info call 918-834-1956 or see ad in this week's Native Times!

Wild Onion Dinner at Christ United Methodist Church, 315 S. Davis, Claremore, 10:30 -- 3:00 p.m.

Wild Onion Dinner at Mary Lee Clark United Methodist Church, 1100 Howard Dr., Midwest City, 11:00 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m., \$8/plate

MARCH 21
Wild Onion Dinner at Fife Indian United Methodist Church, 1100 Eufaula St., Muskogee, 5:00 -- 7:00 p.m. \$8/plate.

MARCH 22
Wild Onion Dinner at Con-

charty United Methodist Church, 6 miles east of Highway 75 on Highway 16 to Bixby Road, 4 miles north on Bixby Road to Garfield Road. 11:00 -- 3:00 p.m., \$10 adults, \$6 children 10 & under, \$10 to go.

Wild Onion Dinner at Norman First American United Methodist Church, 1950 Beaumont Dr., Norman

APRIL 4
NdN taco sale 11am-3pm, at Indian Fellowship Baptist Church: 6130 S. 58th W. Ave, Oakhurst. \$7 for a taco and dessert. Info or for delivery, call Mary @ 918-636-8394.

APRIL 5
Checotah Native Art Market, 9am-4pm at the Heartland Heritage Museum & Gallery, 116 N Broadway, Checotah. Paintings, beadwork, textiles, leather crafts, cultural items, jewel, music, demonstrations, Native food concessions and more. Free to the public. For information call Frankie Blagg, 918-916-9015

APRIL 25-27
United Cherokee 16th Annual Festival and Native American Powwow, 9:00AM 'til 5:00PM at 3550 Creek Path Road, Guntersville, Alabama 35976 Contact: (256) 582-2333 or ucanonline@bellsouth.net

LISAN TIGER BLAIR:

Young artist continues family tradition

By KAREN SHADE
Native Times

Not all the facts are clear to him, such as when he first took up clay and molded it into small shapes. But even if 18-year-old Lisan Tiger Blair can't remember making dinosaurs out of Play-Doh, his mom does.

"The boy was making stuff with Play-Doh before he could talk," says artist Dana Tiger. "Both my kids, they talked late, they didn't talk early. They'd say a huge word and they wouldn't say it again ... We were out in the country and they were playing in the streams, hanging out with snakes, bringing snakes into the house. They were just all about nature."

The renowned Mvskoke, Seminole and Cherokee artist thinks it was that upbringing and inherent talent that helped her son win big at the Oklahoma Regional Scholastic Art Awards. The awards were given at a ceremony on Feb. 8 at the Tulsa Community College Center for Creativity in downtown Tulsa. Tiger Blair won two Gold Key Individual Awards - one each for his clay pieces, Reaching Out and Little Jack. Two other pieces earned the Silver Key Individual Award (Survival) and an Honorable Mention Individual Award (Ravenmocker). He also took a Silver Key Portfolio Award.

Chances are that Tiger Blair will remember this accomplishment - his Gold Key Award-winning pieces will advance him to the national level of competition with other regional key holders for awards and scholarships. The national adjudication will begin in late February, and winners will be announced in March.

He isn't surprised that his work did well, but we was surprised at how well.

"I didn't know I'd win silver and gold, and I didn't even know I got the top five award," he said.

Along with his key awards, Tiger Blair was named one of five American Vision Award nominees for the sculpture Little Jack.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is a program recognizing creativity among youth all over the country, Canada and U.S. territories. Created in 1923, the awards are given to teens for exceptional artistic and literary talent based on the values of originality, technical skill and the presence of a personal vision or voice. Past recipients include Robert Redford, Richard Avedon, Ken Burns, Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Joyce Carol Oates, Truman Capote and John Lithgow.

Working with 100 regional programs to reach into small towns and communities as well as metropolitan areas, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards received 230,000 original works submitted by teens in 2013. In the Oklahoma Region program alone, more than 1,300 individual entries and 91 art portfolios were adjudicated. The program is open to teens in grades 7-12.

This is Tiger Blair's first time entering work into the prestigious contest, but he isn't new to competition, and he certainly isn't a novice when it comes to art.

As a child, he was either drawing dinosaurs in the margins of his homework or molding them. For one competition, he sculpted an uktena, a horned serpent monster from Cherokee folklore told of in scary stories around camp fires and gatherings. He won third place. In sixth grade, he entered two pieces - a stegosaurus and ceratosaurus - into the International Dinosaur Art Contest and Exhibit at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History in Norman. He took first place for his ceratosaurus, but it almost didn't happen in spite of his mom's efforts to help him.

"I drove it (the sculpture) up there in a snow storm to get it entered, made it - this was the worst thing I ever did, I think - and I



KAREN SHADE

Lisan Tiger Blair, pictured at the Tiger Art Gallery in Muskogee with a commissioned work-in-progress, won two Gold Key Awards at the Oklahoma Regional Scholastic Art Awards in February.

get to the table and drop it on the floor," his mother said.

Thanks to some glue and adept hands, the piece was repaired.

"That was his first first (place win)," she said.

"Was it?" he asked.

It wouldn't be his last.

"We've got a box full of ribbons this boy has amassed, and they're just crammed into a huge box, just stacked full," Tiger said.

Tiger and her family divide their time between the Tiger Art Gallery in Muskogee and the rural family home east of town in the Cherokee Nation. They do a lot of work at the gallery. She and her son work on their art. Husband and father Donnie Blair, a craftsman, works on his frames and woodwork projects. Daughter Christie Tiger studies at the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, N.M. However, the family's legacy goes beyond their work today.

Tiger is the daughter of celebrated painter and sculptor Jerome Tiger. She learned by studying her father's work and with the guidance of her uncle, Johnny Tiger Jr. Her grandfather, Johnny Tiger Sr., was also a sculptor and designed patterns for quilts. Her grandmother, Lucinda Tiger, who turns 92 in March, made the quilts.

Already a commissioned artist, Tiger Blair has work in the permanent collection at Muskogee's Five Civilized Tribes Museum as well as work on display at the Oklahoma Supreme Court gallery. Last summer, he showed work at the National Museum of the American Indian and taught a sculpture class.

Does he feel the pressure or weight of the Tiger family legacy?

"Not really," he says, "... it's inspiring."

He plans to study art at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah after high school.

Chickasaw watercolorist, Caddo potter featured at visitor center

■ Chickasaw painter Norman Howard and Caddo potter Charles Earles will have their works displayed at the Chickasaw Visitor Center during spring.

By DANA LANCE
chickasaw Nation

SULPHUR, Okla. - The works of two award-winning Southeastern tribal artists will be on display this spring at the Chickasaw Visitor Center.

Chickasaw/Choctaw artist Norma Howard's watercolors will be featured beginning in March.

Howard, a Stigler, Okla., native, is a self-taught water colorist who depicts the traditional culture of the Chickasaw and Choctaw people.

"My inspiration will always be to tell my ancestors' story and honor the way they lived," said Howard.

Howard is deeply rooted to her Mississippi ancestors. She records, with great detail, the traditions of the past and present in her culture. She transports you to an earlier time by capturing moments of everyday life for the Chickasaw and Choctaw people.

Her masterpieces portray anything from a stickball game, to hunting and fishing scenes, to even a grandmother stitching a star quilt on a porch.

"These subjects about how people survived in hard times and in everyday life that every tribe can relate to, wherever they lived. People tell me it's the details that draw them into my paintings and capture their feelings," Howard said.

Howard's style recalls the pointillism of impressionists, but instead of dots, she painstakingly layers tiny, basket weave brush strokes to produce a vibrant depth of color rarely seen with watercolors.

Her basket-weaving brush stroke style has won her numerous awards, including the "Best in Show," for the Masters division at the Five Tribes Museum.

"I am most proud of these awards because I am competing against the best artists in the business," Howard said.

Howard's collection of art will be on public



CHICKASAW NATION PHOTOS

ABOVE: Norma Howard's "The General Store." BELOW LEFT: Norma Howard. BELOW RIGHT: Charles Earles pottery.



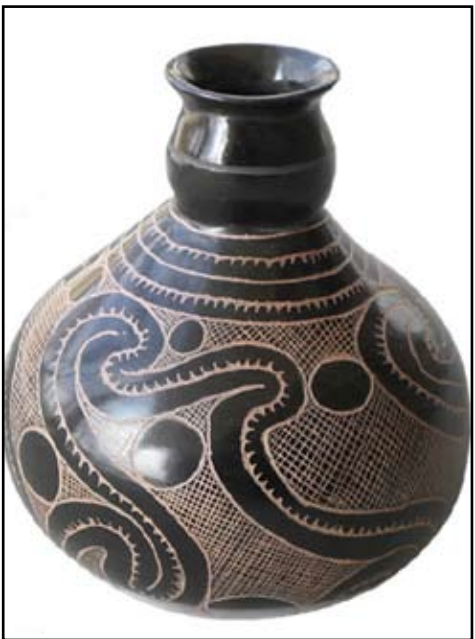
display from March 1 until the end of June.

In addition, the work of Chase Kahwinhut Earles, a traditional Caddo potter, will be featured at the Chickasaw Visitor Center this spring.

The desire to educate people about what sets Caddo tradition apart from other Southeastern tribes motivates and challenges Earles to push the limits of describing his culture in his pottery art.

"The once grand and widespread tradition of Caddo pottery has now been reduced to a shadow of its former self and almost even disappeared completely," Earles said.

"With the help of the only living Caddo



pottery revivalist, I got started down the path of my artistic expression of our tribe's traditional pottery to help current and future generations of our people understand the beauty and craftsmanship and uniqueness of our ancient pottery methods and culture."

Born in Oklahoma, Earles has been an artist as long as he can remember: "From the

day the art teacher in kindergarten pulled me aside to draw something for the school. From then on I was always drawing and painting, but until I found pottery I really didn't have a voice or a reason."

When he connected with his tribe and heritage and learned of the true grandeur of Caddo tradition and how it had been lost and hidden from the public, he set forth almost obsessively learning the methods and designs of his tribe, creating works of art that are modernized, to educate both tribal people and the public about Caddo tradition.

"All of my tribe's ancient traditional pottery was hand coiled from clay that was from the local river source, which included the Red River and the Arkansas River. These pottery pieces are then hand burnished with a rock to look like glass without any glaze. The final touch before firing is the hand carving of the scrolling ancient designs which include motifs centered around the origin stories of my Caddo people."

Objects in the motifs include feathers, serpents, the sun and moon, and the everlasting fire.

He also wishes to reveal through his work how Caddo's tradition was cherished by everyone across the nation in prehistoric and historic times.

Among honors and awards, Earles earned first place in the Pottery division in the 2013 Southeastern Arts Show and Market.

Designed to provide information and tell the story of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, the Chickasaw Visitor Center serves a wide range of tourists, highlights local attractions and communicates the Chickasaw Nation's connection to the area.

The split-level visitor center includes an information desk, a multipurpose gallery, media room, public restrooms, a gift shop and a prominent wall sculpture by Chickasaw artist Paul Moore.

The Chickasaw Visitor Center is located at 901 W. First Street, Sulphur, and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in winter months and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day.



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NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 20 + ISSUE 12

MARCH 24-28, 2014

Will circumvents American Indian Probate Reform Act

■ The Act was passed in Congress to combat fractionation, an issue with inherited land getting divided over the generations to the point of serving no practical use.

By BRANDON MATHIS
Durango Herald

DURANGO, Colo. (AP) – Edward B. Box III comes from a long line of ancestors in this region. It’s important to him that the things he’s gathered in this world are distributed as he sees fit.

“I want my (property) to be

protected and handed down as it should be,” he said.

He’s a member of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. That means, when he dies, in accordance with the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004, his property will go to his eldest child. If there is no oldest child, then the one oldest grandchild, or the one oldest great-

grandchild, and so on. Within those laws, it is possible that nothing could go to a spouse or partner or other family members.

John Roach wants to provide more flexibility for families. “It is my belief that a person should have the ability to change this,” said Roach, fiduciary trust officer for the Southwest Region of the

Department of the Interior. “And that can be changed with a will.”

Roach saw the potential problem with the reform act early on. It was passed in Congress to combat an issue with inherited land called fractionation, where lands passed through generations get divided

See WILL on Page 3

Caddo leadership dispute finally gets day in court

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

ANADARKO, Okla. – An end may be in sight for an Oklahoma tribe’s leadership dispute.

Earlier this month, judge Phil Lajun with the Southern Plains region’s Court of Indian Offenses granted an emergency injunction prohibiting Brenda Shemayme Edwards from conducting official business or spending any funds on behalf of the Caddo Nation, based in Binger, Okla.

Lajun has scheduled a



Brenda Shemayme Edwards hearing for 2 p.m. Tuesday that would potentially make the injunction permanent.

Re-elected as chairwoman last summer,

See CADDO on Page 4

Autopsy: Man killed by deputies was shot 7 times

CLINTON, Okla. (AP) – An autopsy report on a Cheyenne Arapaho citizen killed by Custer County deputies says the man was shot seven times, then was handcuffed.

The report released Friday says 18-year-old Mah-hi-vist Goodblanket was also shot twice with a stun gun.

Sheriff Bruce Peoples told The Oklahoman that the stun gun failed to stop Goodblanket and that handcuffing him after the shooting is consistent with law enforcement procedure.

Deputies were called by Goodblanket’s parents to his home on Dec. 21 because he was breaking windows and doors. Deputies say they opened fire after he attacked them with a knife.

An Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation report on the shooting has been given District Attorney Dennis Smith – who says a decision on whether the shooting was justified is expected within 10 days.



FILE PHOTO
The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum remains unfinished as lawmakersicker over funding.

Oklahoma lawmakers tour unfinished Indian museum

By TIM TALLEY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Oklahoma lawmakers walked across the bare floors of the unfinished American Indian Cultural Center & Museum on Tuesday as museum administrators urged the passage of legislation to provide funding to complete the structure and open it to tourists.

But the House author of the Senate-passed \$40 million funding measure said approval in the House is not assured and may ultimately depend upon the work of members of the House’s Native American caucus.

“They are going to have to impress on the other members that this is

See MUSEUM on Page 4

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE



FELICIA FONSECA | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO
In this March 10, 2014 photo, Navajo elder Stella Peshlakai Smith, 89, stands outside a traditional dwelling on her homestead at Wupatki National Monument in northern Arizona.

Family fighting to stay on monument land

■ Across the West, few American Indians remain on lands that have become iconic tourist destinations managed by the federal government.

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

WUPATKI NATIONAL MONUMENT, Ariz. (AP) – Before an expanse of grassland and pueblo ruins in northern Arizona was declared a national monument, it was home to hundreds of Navajos whose ancestors returned to settle the area after a forced march to an eastern New Mexico internment camp.

Slowly, the Navajo families left Wupatki National Monument too, either voluntarily or under pressure by the National Park Service, which sought to eliminate private use of the public land it managed. Only one Navajo woman remains.

When 89-year-old Stella Peshlakai Smith dies, her residency permit dies with her, ending forever the Navajo presence at Wupatki.

The Peshlakais have vowed to fight for the land surrounded by the Little Colorado River valley, snow-capped mountains and towering mesas, where their sheep once grazed freely. Support for the family is mounting among state and tribal officials, but it’s up to

Congress to decide whether they can stay.

“This family has had a homestead there for generations and generations, years, and we want that to be made right,” Navajo Nation lawmaker Walter Phelps said.

Smith estimates that dozens of extended members of her family would move back if given the chance.

An exhibit at the Wupatki visitors center highlights the struggle between the Peshlakais and the Park Service, and hints at the broader story of American Indian ancestral lands across the country that have become public property.

One 1970 letter on display is from the Park Service to a former U.S. senator from Arizona. It says: “At no time have the Navajos who grazed within the monument had any title in the land. ... In the absence of appropriate legislation, these lands could not be surrendered to the Peshlakai family. We believe such legislation would not be in the public interest.”

It’s the same position that monument Superintendent Kayci Cook Collins takes today. She said tribal members connected to Wupatki are able to conduct ceremonies there, and the Peshlakai family can visit Smith’s homestead. But reserving property for the Peshlakais could invite other tribes, whose ancestors built pueblos and traded goods at Wupatki, to lay claim to the land.

“In general, units of the National

Park Service are not managed to hold private residences on public land,” she said. “The situation the National Park Service tried to be sensitive to does not exist for the other families.”

Smith was born at Wupatki a month before it became a national monument, and was raised there by her father, Clyde Peshlakai, who acted as the monument’s custodian. Clyde Peshlakai is credited with discovering the Wupatki “blowhole,” a geologic feature that forces cold air from the ground and sucks in warm air. His burial site is a two-room stone house visible from the road that loops around the monument.

Along the rugged road that leads to Smith’s home are reminders of Navajo homesteads: old sheep corrals, wooden logs pitched for a sweat lodge and a traditional Navajo dwelling where Smith’s great-grandfather, Peshlakai Etsidi, is buried. Etsidi was among thousands of Navajos who endured cold, disease and starvation in the U.S. government’s attempt to relocate them to Bosque Redondo near Fort Sumner, N.M., in what’s known as the Long Walk.

Etsidi returned to northern Arizona around 1870 after the Navajos signed a treaty with the federal government that defined a reservation for the tribe.

The reservation did not include land that would become Wupatki National Monument, where Etsidi and other

See FAMILY on Page 4



Tribe sees DOI legal opinion as casino boost

By **BOB SALSBERG**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) – The Mashpee Wampanoag tribe said Tuesday that a recent legal opinion from the U.S. Interior Department could provide a major boost to its hopes of building a resort casino in Taunton.

Hilary Tompkins, the department’s solicitor, said in the memorandum dated March 12 that tribes did not have to be federally recognized before 1934 in order to be eligible to have land taken into trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The opinion was an attempt to clarify the department’s interpretation of a 2009 U.S. Supreme Court ruling stating that the government was barred from taking land into trust for tribes that were not under federal jurisdiction in 1934, the year Congress passed a law specifying rights of self-government for tribes.

The court’s decision in the case known as *Carcieri v. Salazar* involved a land dispute between the state of Rhode Island and the Narragansett Indian tribe.

The Mashpee, a landless tribe, has applied to have the proposed casino site in Taunton taken into trust by the federal government. Since the tribe did not receive federal recognition until 2007, questions have been raised about whether the phrase “under federal jurisdiction” in 1934 meant the tribe was ineligible for land in

trust.

“That contention is legally incorrect,” Tompkins wrote in her opinion.

The solicitor noted that the high court left vague the meaning of “federal jurisdiction,” and that the term could apply to other historical interactions between a tribe and the federal government, such as treaties.

Cedric Cromwell, chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council, said the memorandum backed the tribe’s own interpretation of the Supreme Court ruling.

“We believe that this legal opinion will go a long way toward helping our tribe and so many other tribes get land placed into trust,” Cromwell said in a statement.

The tribe has also said it can prove ancestral ties to the Taunton land, another requirement for the land-in-trust designation.

The state’s 2011 casino law that permits up to three regional resort casinos in Massachusetts gave preference in the southeastern region for a federally-recognized tribe. The state gambling commission has since opened the door to the possibility of licensing a commercial casino developer in the region if the Mashpee was unable to show progress in securing federal approval.

The tribe cleared another hurdle in January when the bureau approved a revised casino compact the tribe negotiated with Gov. Deval Patrick.

Lawmaker rips tribes’ spearfishing goals

By **TODD RICHMOND**
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – Wisconsin’s Chippewa bands want to spear too many walleyes again this spring and risk re-igniting tensions if state officials adopt tight bag limits for non-tribal anglers, the state Assembly’s tourism chairman warned Thursday.

The tribes have declared they want to harvest a record 63,488 walleye across northern Wisconsin this spring. The declaration comes after the state Department of Natural Resources imposed strict bag limits to compensate for last year’s tribal goals and protect the walleye fishery. This year’s declaration could push the agency to adopt even tighter restrictions on non-tribal fishermen.

Rep. Dean Kaufert, R-Neenah, chairman of the Assembly’s tourism committee, was so incensed last year that he threatened to rescind a state grant for one Chippewa tribe. He said Thursday that the tribes are being too aggressive again this year, and he’s already hearing complaints from constituents.

“Unfortunately the tribes don’t do themselves any (public relations) favors when they do this,” Kaufert said. “(The record declaration) catches people’s attention and they’re not pleased about it ... when you severely limit the ability of these folks to have a decent catch, it may impact the tourism.”

Sue Erickson, a spokeswoman

for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, which oversees the Chippewa’s off-reservation rights, said in response to Kaufert that the bands have never actually met their harvest goals.

“The tribes’ declarations represent an effort to provide opportunity for tribal members to harvest the fish they need during a very short and unpredictable season,” she said.

The Chippewa signed treaties in the 1800s that granted the bands the right to hunt and fish on millions of northern Wisconsin acres that the tribes handed over to the federal government. The bands say they need to spear walleyes for food and use at ceremonies. They usually start spearing as soon as winter ice clears off northern lakes and continue until spawning ends in May.

The tribes usually harvest only about half their goal. But the DNR still assumes they’ll reach the mark every year when it considers how to protect the overall walleye population, resulting in tight bag limits for non-tribal anglers. Last year, the tribes’ 59,399 goal was so high the DNR imposed one-bag, or one-fish, limits on nearly 200 lakes and two-bag limits on more than 300.

Kaufert feared the limits would depress northern Wisconsin’s sport-fishing economy. He threatened to pull back a \$250,000 state grant for a Lac du Flambeau education center in retaliation. Gordon Thayer, then the Lac Courte Oreilles chairman, accused

the DNR of spreading propaganda that the bag limits were all that stood between Wisconsin’s walleye and extinction.

The discord faded after a cold, late spring kept the tribes’ actual harvest to only 28,400 fish, allowing the DNR to raise bag limits accordingly.

The DNR has yet to release this year’s bag limits but they figure to be stiffer than last year’s because the Chippewa’s declaration is higher.

Kaufert said he probably won’t resort to making another financial threat. He said threatening to rescind the grant last year didn’t accomplish anything, and other legislators, especially those with tribes in their districts, don’t want to “stick their neck out” to back him up. He hopes a cold spring will tamp down the tribes’ efforts again, allowing the DNR to ratchet up bag limits.

“I just don’t believe they need to be as aggressive as they are,” Kaufert said. “They do this because they can and it catches the ire of some folks.”

Mike Arrowood is chairman of Walleyes for Tomorrow, a group that works to improve walleye fishing. He said non-tribal anglers can’t do anything to change the Chippewa’s treaty rights. Still, he questioned why the tribe makes such ambitious declarations.

“You have to wonder why (the tribes) set these unrealistic goals,” he said. “What is their rationale? Why do they do this? To enflame public opinion?”



A view of the Rio Grande from White Rock Overlook Park, Los Alamos, New Mexico

COURTESY

Tensions over Rio Grande escalate with drought

By **SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN**
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) – The tension was high Thursday as top water managers from New Mexico, Colorado and Texas gathered to discuss management of the Rio Grande in the face severe drought and a legal battle that has the potential to leave farmers in the arid region without a much-needed source of water.

Members of the Rio Grande Compact Commission heard from several federal experts that the river has been stretched beyond its limits, leaving little for farmers, Native American communities and endangered fish to fight over as the dry conditions persist.

The commissioners indicated they were willing to work together to solve some of the region’s water problems, but New Mexico State

Engineer Scott Verhines was more direct about the battle his state is locked in with Texas over the river’s water. He pressed for more communication and cooperation.

“We have a lot of really smart folks in the room, some of the most sophisticated water managers in the West. But I also want to say I’m generally disappointed in all of us, that we find ourselves in this place again,” Verhines said.

As New Mexico’s top water official, Verhines said it would be better to use the state’s resources for solving the problem rather than litigating. But he added that New Mexico is still ready to fight for its citizens and water users if that’s the only path available.

“We’re confident in our facts and our practices and our position,” he said.

Texas took its case to the U.S. Supreme Court more than a year

ago, asking that New Mexico stop pumping groundwater along the border so that more of the river could flow south to farmers and residents in El Paso.

The federal government has also weighed in. In its motion to intervene in the case, the government contends that groundwater pumping in New Mexico is tapping the shallow aquifer that would otherwise drain back into the Rio Grande and flow to Texas.

Stuart Somach, an attorney representing Texas in the case, said after Thursday’s meeting that Texas is trying to defend itself and protect what it believes belongs to its citizens. The fight over the Rio Grande is not as simple as solving technical issues along the river, he said.

“The only way to actually solve the problem is to allow the court to

tell us who is right and then we can take a look at the technical aspects of this thing and figure out how to remediate the wrong that exists,” Somach said.

New Mexico officials are concerned that the federal government is attempting to gain control of groundwater in the lower Rio Grande by insisting that it be part of the Rio Grande Project – the massive system of canals and dams that deliver surface water to farmers in southern New Mexico and Texas. That would threaten New Mexico’s rights to manage underground sources of water, state officials say.

It could be years before the court makes a decision, but some experts say the case could set precedent when it comes to state rights in the drought-stricken West.

The case could also affect the ability of farmers in southern New

Mexico to use groundwater wells to irrigate their crops. In recent years, without enough water in the river, chile and onion farmers and pecan growers have been forced to rely almost entirely on wells to keep their crops and trees alive.

The river is governed by a decades-old compact that spells out how much of the Rio Grande the three states must share.

Verhines said New Mexico is meeting its obligations under the compact, but Somach argued that obligation involves more than putting water in Elephant Butte, the largest storage reservoir along the Rio Grande.

“We believe it includes not taking that water and intercepting it before it gets to Texas. That’s the fundamental nature of the dispute,” he said.

Woman facing federal charges rejects 4 lawyers

HAVRE, Mont. (AP) – A woman charged with embezzling more than \$50,000 from the tribal health clinic on the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation will be representing herself at trial after rejecting four public defenders, a federal judge has ruled.

Fawn Tadios recently requested a fifth public defender, the Havre Daily News reports.

“I am intimidated by this court and do not believe that I will receive a fair trial,” Tadios wrote in her March 7 request. “I am at a disadvantage against skilled, experienced U.S. attorneys.”

Prosecutors reluctantly supported her request.

“Although this defendant has abused the system with her repeated substitutions of counsel and tried the patience of her assigned attorneys, the court and the United States, under these circumstances the United

States must concur in the motion for appointment of counsel,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Carl Rostad wrote in a reply brief. However, he asked that U.S. District Court Judge Brian Morris prohibit Tadios from filing complaints against or trying to dismiss the next attorney.

“Her obstructive behavior has abused the process and made a mockery of the constitutional right to counsel,” Rostad wrote.

Morris agreed with that prohibition, but Tadios did not.

“Defendant refused to accept new counsel on these terms and informed the court that she wished to represent herself in this matter despite the court’s repeated warnings that proceeding pro se was dangerous and not in her best interests,” Morris wrote in the court order.

Tadios, the former director of the health clinic, was indicted in June on

two counts of theft from an Indian tribal organization receiving federal grants, theft from an Indian tribal organization and theft from a health care facility.

Prosecutors alleged she used the money to visit her husband, a former Chippewa Cree tribal chairman who was in a federal prison in North Dakota after pleading guilty to putting \$59,000 in personal charges on a tribal credit card.

Two federal public defenders were initially appointed to represent Tadios, but they were removed from the case in September at her request. One of the attorneys said a “communication breakdown” had occurred.

Another attorney was appointed, but he was removed on Nov. 11.

The court appointed a fourth attorney, but he was terminated on March 6.

Imprisoned ex-chairman banished by Mashantuckets after conviction

MASHANTUCKET, Conn. (AP) – A former chairman of the tribe that owns the Foxwoods Resort Casino has been banished from its reservation following his conviction on federal theft charges.

The Day of New London reports the Mashantucket Pequot’s Elders Council voted last week to banish former chairman Michael Thomas from tribal lands. Thomas was convicted in July of embezzling more than

\$100,000 from the tribe and began serving an 18-month prison sentence in January.

The council also voted to impose restrictions on his brother, Steven Thomas, who pleaded guilty to a theft charge and was sentenced last month to probation and three months of home confinement. The council said he was banished for one year from tribal land except for his home on the reservation and his work at Foxwoods.

WILL

Continued from Page 1

into factions of property so small they hardly serve the use of individual ownership.

“We have tracts (of land) that have over a thousand owners,” Roach said. “If you have more than 20 owners, you can’t get them to agree on where the sun rises, much less on how to lease the land for agriculture or gas and oil or whatever.”

So Roach had an idea. He wrote letters to numerous law schools and caught the attention of Lucy Marsh, a law professor at the University of Denver.

“I run a program in Denver where students write wills for low-income people and families, and so I thought, ‘Well, it’s all the same deal,’”

Marsh said. “Well, it turns out it is way more complex.”

She described the act as incredibly difficult and said without a proper will, many family members are at a loss.

“It’s the heck with the second or third kids. That is just ferocious.”

So, for the second year, Marsh and a group of students packed their bags and spent their spring break in the Four Corners, setting up shop in makeshift legal offices at the Sky Ute Casino Resort in Ignacio to help. And it’s all pro bono.

Colin Fletcher, in his second year of law school, jumped at the chance.

“I’m here to help out tribal members,” Fletcher said. “That’s the bottom line. I’m a big believer that if it’s your property, then you can do

with it what you want after death, and (APRA) takes that right away.”

The law students worked under supervision of Roach, Marsh and Paul Padilla, a former student of Marsh’s who now holds a private practice in Durango. He said the service is invaluable to tribal members, and the experience is rewarding for students.

Southern Ute tribal member Georgia McKinley said her father wrote his own will, but it wasn’t recognized as a legal document.

“It’s important to get this done,” McKinley said. “In case of a death, with every family there are hardships. Maybe there is a house. Maybe there is land. It’s important to have a will.”

SD judges ignore order in Native children lawsuit

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) – A federal judge has given four current circuit judges in South Dakota two weeks to either abide by his orders or explain why they refuse to issue transcripts of custody hearings involving Native American children.

The Rapid City Journal reports Chief U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken issued the order in response to a motion filed by some parents who are challenging the procedures state officials used when removing children from their homes.

Viken has previously said the plaintiffs can have transcripts of some hearings.

The parents’ lawsuit claims courts and officials disregarded provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act by holding improper hearings before removing children from homes for 60 days. The 1978 federal law came after Congress found high numbers of Indian children being removed from their homes.

FBI seek suspect in stabbing

GALLUP, N.M. (AP) – Federal and tribal authorities are searching for a Gallup man accused of a Christmas Day stabbing on the Navajo Nation.

FBI spokesman Frank Fisher said Saturday a federal arrest warrant was initially issued for 43-year-old Calvin Bennie Fuson on Jan. 22.

Fuson has been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon with the intent to do bodily harm.

Authorities say Fuson stabbed an adult relative in the chest with a long kitchen knife in Naschitti on Dec. 25, 2013.

They say the victim survived.

Fuson is described as Native American, 6 feet tall, approximately 172 pounds and has black hair and brown eyes.

He also has tattoos on his hands and upper right arm.

Apache man pleads guilty to tribal embezzlement

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – Federal prosecutors say a 61-year-old man has pleaded guilty to embezzling from the Apache tribe.

Both men face up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. A sentencing hearing has not been set for Carattini.

Carattini’s attorney, Mark L. Henricksen, says his client is a veteran currently in poor health who made a poor choice and wishes to move past it.

Antonio Carattini of Apache was the second man to plead guilty in the scheme. John Pangburn of Tulsa pleaded guilty in 2013 to conspiracy to embezzle funds.

U.S. Attorney Sanford Coats says Carattini pleaded guilty Wednesday to embezzling from the tribe. Carattini admitted

Ex-Choctaw Nation construction official faces federal charges

MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP) – A former construction official for the Choctaw Nation has been indicted on federal charges in connection with an alleged embezzlement scheme.

Jason Brett Merida of Rattan is charged in federal court in Muskogee with conspiracy, theft, tax fraud and money laundering. The Oklahoman reports that prosecutors say he used money collected from false construction bills to pay for hunting and golf trips, at least 52 firearms, a sport utility vehicle and cosmetic surgery for his wife.

Merida did not return phone calls seeking comment.

The tribe lost an estimated \$7 million in the scheme that was uncovered during a routine audit.

Merida supervised tribal construction projects and approved payments related to those projects.

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Minnesota tribe’s grants help fellow tribes buy propane

By BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) – Donations from an American Indian tribe in Minnesota totaling nearly \$1.4 million have helped Great Plains tribes weather this winter’s propane crisis.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community provided grants to the Standing Rock Sioux in North Dakota and South Dakota; the Yankton, Rosebud and Cheyenne River Sioux in South Dakota; and the Santee Sioux in Nebraska.

“The propane shortage this year has been particularly hard on American Indian communities,” Shakopee Chairman Charlie Vig said in a statement. “We are compelled to help our fellow tribes get through the remaining days of winter.”

A nationwide propane shortage caused by supply disruptions, a late harvest and a winter cold snap made the fuel so expensive that many reservation residents couldn’t afford it. The problem was particularly acute on Standing Rock, where about 5,000 homes on the 3,600-square-mile reservation rely on the fuel for heat.

Authorities are still investigating whether cold was a factor in the death of Debbie Dogskin, 61, who died in a mobile home with an empty propane tank. Sioux County Sheriff Frank Landeis said he is still awaiting the autopsy results.

The situation on Standing Rock has eased as propane prices have fallen with the onset of spring, Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II said. Residential propane prices have fallen from about \$4 a gallon in late January to \$3.08 this week, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That is below the \$3.50 mark at which Archambault said the fuel starts becoming unaffordable for reservation residents. The tribe lifted an emergency declaration earlier this month.

“We don’t think there’s an emergency anymore,” Archambault said. “People have propane, it’s starting to warm up, and prices are dropping. It’s all good.”

Standing Rock received \$500,000 from the Shakopee tribe in early February to help buy propane for tribal members who didn’t qualify for help through the federal government’s Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The Minnesota tribe gave \$300,000 to the Yankton Sioux Tribe and \$70,000 to the Santee Sioux at the same time.

This month, the Shakopee tribe has given \$250,000 each to the Rosebud and Cheyenne River tribes.

The Cheyenne River Sioux operates its own propane company, supplying about 1,000 homes.

“It has definitely been a challenge this year,” General Manager Mona Thompson said



Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II

Rosebud Chairman Cyril Scott wrote in his request to the Shakopee tribe that some tribal members were in “dire need” of propane and called it a “crisis situation.”

Wizipan Little Elk, CEO of the tribe’s economic development corporation, said about 2,000 homes on the reservation rely on propane. Tribal officials went into communities several times over the winter to check on residents, he said.

The tribe last fall started its own propane supply company and stocked up on the fuel before the winter, so it was able to keep prices lower than other suppliers. However, the company ran out of propane for three days earlier this month, and residents had to turn to other suppliers.

“It wasn’t a fun time to start a propane business, with the national crisis going on,” Little Elk said. “But we managed.”

CADDO

Continued from Page 1

Edwards was subject to a recall petition within weeks of taking office. Since then, the tribe has had two factions claiming to be its legitimate authority, with one administration, currently led by Anthony Cotter, working out of the Caddo Nation complex and another, led by Edwards, working off-site.

The injunction request comes from a March 10 Caddo Tribal Council meeting affiliated with the Cotter administration. Twenty-one tribal citizens – one more than the constitutionally-required minimum for quorum -- signed off on bringing a

case forward to the Court of Indian Affairs, which adjudicates cases stemming from the Caddo Nation.

The hearing comes on the heels of a federal judge’s decision to dismiss a lawsuit against both administrations filed by an oil and gas firm seeking severance taxes from the tribe. Binger Operations LLC pays monthly taxes to the Caddo Nation for its oil and gas properties on tribal land. With both claimant governments requesting tax dollars, the company filed an action in December with the Western District of Oklahoma to get a determination on who had a legitimate claim to the money.

Judge Joe Heaton dismissed Binger Operation LLC’s case on the grounds

that the federal court cannot consider the case until all options at the tribal level, including going before the Court of Indian Offenses, are exhausted.

“Where, as here, the underlying dispute is one of internal tribal governance, insistence on exhaustion of tribal court (or other) remedies is particularly appropriate,” Heaton wrote.

With two claimant governments attempting to lead the tribe of 5,500 citizens, the Bureau of Indian Affairs designated the Caddo Nation a “high risk contractor/grantee” late last year, placing its self-governance funding at risk. A BIA investigation is still pending into an armed break-in at the tribe’s complex in December.

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

something that is good for the whole state,” said Rep. David Dank, R-Oklahoma City. A total of 24 of the House’s 101 members, including 16 members of the majority Republican caucus, are part of the Native American caucus as enrolled members of one of the state’s 39 federally recognized tribes, Dank said.

“It’s going to take a lot of work on the part of the Native American caucus,” Dank said. “It’s going to be very, very hard.”

More than a dozen members of the House and Senate walked through the concrete-and-steel structure as museum director Blake Wade urged approval of the funding measure that would take \$40 million from the state’s Unclaimed Property Fund to help complete the museum. The bill is pending in the House.

The money would be matched with another \$40 million from private sources including \$7.4 million from Oklahoma’s federally recognized tribes, \$9 million from the city of Oklahoma City and donations from various private and corporate donors.

“Let’s go ahead and get it finished,” Wade said. He said the 173,000-square-foot structure at the crossroads of Interstates 35 and 40 south of downtown Oklahoma City will be “a destination spot” that will tell the story of tribal cultures and history for visitors from around the nation and the world.

“Oklahoma is Indian Territory,” Wade said. “We want to do everything we can to make this work.”

Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby said the structure was designed as a “world-class facility” that would house exhibits provided by tribal nations and renowned museums like the Smithsonian Institution.

“This wonderful facility will be something to marvel at,” Anoatubby said. “Imagine what it can be. Imagine what it can do.”

If funding is approved, the cultural center will be self-sustaining and administrators will seek no additional funding from the state, Wade said. Completion is scheduled for 2017 if funding is authorized this year.

But some lawmakers have expressed skepticism about the facility’s financial future. The state already has spent \$64 million through three separate bond issues to help pay for the project, which also has received funding from Oklahoma City and the federal stimulus.

“More money. More money. And the taxpayers don’t want to do it,” said Rep. Mike Reynolds, R-Oklahoma City, one of several House members who toured the structure.

Other lawmakers seemed more willing to consider voting for the plan.

“It needs to be finished. I think this is a good way to do it,” said Rep. Mike Christian, R-Oklahoma City, a member of the Choctaw Nation.

“This is a state asset. It is the state’s responsibility,” said Rep. Randy McDaniel, R-Edmond. “This mission is to get it completed.”

FAMILY

Continued from Page 1

Navajos resettled. Their children made a playground of its low-lying grasslands, sandstone outcroppings and scrub brush. Herding sheep, a staple of Navajo tradition and a sign of wealth, was an everyday task.

But the Park Service feared overgrazing and asked Navajos to move their sheep off the monument at times and imposed herd limits. Members of the Peshlakai family said they were forced to move beyond the Little Colorado River.

Elsie Tohannie said she was in her late teens or early 20s when a former monument superintendent told her the

family couldn’t live there.

Now 82, she resides with her family in Flagstaff but has vivid memories of Wupatki. She moves her hands as if creating scenes of the landscape that her family says is the source of countless stories of her childhood.

“Absolutely it bothers me,” she said of leaving the land where she grew up. “It’s something no one can recognize, the pain.”

Another family member, James Peshlakai, has no desire to return to a place under Park Service control. He was born about a quarter-mile from the Wupatki visitor center in 1945. He recalls his mother, Katherine, being evicted while he was in school in Flagstaff and hitchhiking to the monument to find her

alone with her sheep. He said he and his siblings fashioned a shelter from tree branches and blankets that they lived in during the winter before going elsewhere.

By that time, Katherine Peshlakai had separated from Clyde Peshlakai. James Peshlakai said he later intervened when the Park Service asked his father to sign a land-use permit, but the elder Peshlakai declined, saying “I want this land for my children.”

James Peshlakai’s daughter, Democratic state Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai, has introduced a resolution in the Legislature for Arizona to declare its support of the Peshlakai family and their continued residency within the national monument. The Navajo Nation Council has

passed a similar resolution.

“Sadly, it’s a story typical of every Native American family in the Americas,” she said.

No request to allow the Peshlakais to live at the monument has been submitted to Congress, but the family has an advocate in Democratic U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick. The congresswoman said that while federal land-management policies have evolved over the years, “we cannot forget that the people who have emerged with the land are inseparable.”

Across the West, few American Indians remain on lands that have become iconic tourist destinations managed by the federal government. The Grand Canyon set aside a housing complex for

Havasupai tribal members displaced by the national park. Navajos also live at Canyon de Chelly National Monument near Chinle, but the land is Navajo-owned, and the monument is jointly managed by the tribe. The 38 sites in four states that make up the Nez Perce National Historical Park include reservation land.

Smith has a rare letter of authorization from the Park Service allowing lifetime residency at Wupatki. Her daughter, Helen Peshlakai Davis, gave up a right to pursue residency at the monument in exchange for land north of Flagstaff.

Davis said the Park Service didn’t fully explain what she was signing, and she contends the agreement should be invalidated. In

Navajo belief, she is tied to Wupatki land because her umbilical cord is buried there beneath a sheep corral.

The Park Service believes the agreement should stand.

While the Peshlakai family once had free reign of the monument’s more than 35,000 acres, Smith now lives on a much smaller plot without the sheep she once had but with amenities like electricity and running water that she grew up without. Smith said any Navajo family who traces their ancestry to the clans that settled the area should be welcomed back.

“It belongs to them ... everything that’s here,” Smith said through a Navajo interpreter.

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UKB Assistant Chief walks on, services pending

STILWELL, Okla. – Charles Locust, the assistant chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Indians, died Saturday morning due to a prolonged illness.

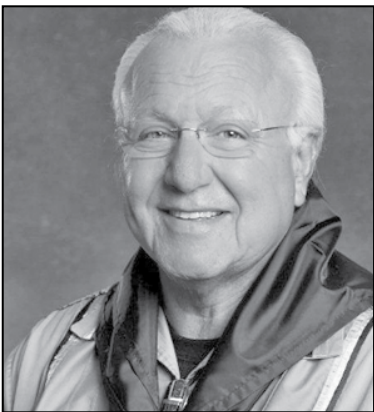
The 57-year-old was first elected assistant chief in 2004. He was re-elected to a third term in 2012, edging past former UKB gaming commissioner Joe Bunch in a runoff.

A graduate of Northeastern State University, he served on the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission under Gov. Brad Henry, as well as two terms as a regional alternate vice president for the National Congress of American Indians.

Services are pending.

COMMENTARY

Tax controversy needs viewing in different light



By CHAIRMAN JOHN BARRETT
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Tribes and City government disputes seldom make headlines. Most recently, and unfortunately, they have. The sales tax controversy in which the City of Shawnee is attempting to tax the four tribes near town, particularly the retail operations at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is heating up. What people may be missing is the fact that the land on which tribal governments operate is deeded to the United

States and held in trust.

A similar situation exists in Midwest City. Given its massive economic impact, it would be strange to see Midwest City and Del City disparage the role Tinker Air Force Base has on the state economy and the economy of the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. The people who live in these communities would be understandably puzzled if their elected leaders began threatening one of the largest employers of the very citizens who elected them. Yet the role of the Indian Nations in Oklahoma, also on federal land, is not seen in the same light.

All too often in Oklahoma, the economic impact, jobs and development created by Native American tribes gets taken for granted. The numbers don't lie. In the last year alone, Oklahoma's 38 federally recognized tribes had a \$10.8 billion impact and directly employed more than 50,000 people. Tribal payrolls contributed a total of \$1.5 billion to the state's economy.

Tribes also made payments of \$792 million for improved access to medical care, education, social services and economic development opportunities.

Tribal business has become a normal part of the daily life in this great state. Tourism destinations, job creation, business diversification and improving quality of life can all be traced back to tribal economic development. In many cases, particularly in rural areas, Oklahoma's tribes are the only source of livelihood and prosperity for the communities where they do business.

That development comes at a cost though, and tribes have struggled to make economic dreams a reality throughout the years. The boost from gaming has helped tremendously, but tribes must continue to diversify and create a tax base to further economic development and job creation.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has begun to flourish because of such strategic planning and stable

governance. A clear direction and plan to become the economic engine for our Tribe and the communities near us has allowed us to increase our assets from just \$50,000 in 1972 to today's economic impact of more than \$520 million.

Without Tribal development there is little growth in our cities or state. Oklahoma's Tribes are the largest employers statewide. Our employees spend their paychecks in thousands of businesses across Oklahoma, all while tribes continue to offer services and economic stimulation through their very presence. Simply put, without tribal job creation, sales tax growth is not possible.

Tribal governments, businesses and social services form an integral part in the fabric of this great state. Attempting to punish Oklahoma's tribes for their success is a questionable strategy, and misguided attempts to stifle that success will only result in all Oklahomans losing out, no matter what their heritage.

Around the Campfire: The Disappointing ACT Scores

By DR. DEAN CHAVERS

For years I have tried to find data on Indian students—college preparation, high school completion rates, college entrance rates, college pre-test scores (ACT and SAT), college dropout rates, and college completion rates. I have also tried to find information on the fields that Indian students majored in.

Most of the time, the data are not available. I have often had to collect my own data. The feds and the states say the Indian sample is too few to bother with. How can four million Indians not be enough to count? The U. S. Education Department (ED) said this less than five years ago.

The American College Testing (ACT) just came out with its first-ever report on the academic preparation of Indian students for college study. It is called "The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2013. American Indian Students." They report, "Within subjects, ACT has found that students who take the recommended core curriculum are more likely to be ready for college or career than those who do not."

It also means they have taken four years of English and three years of social studies and science. The really well prepared student will know how to use computers, will have written term papers all the way through high school, and will have read 300 or more books in preparation for college.

The books will be in the classics, philosophy, literature, biology, chemistry, biography, autobiography, and history. Five years ago I published a book called "Reading for College" to give students and parents guidance in

the area of reading. It is a very hard sell to get an Indian school library to buy this book. We have sold fewer than 100 of them. Our Indian students are leaving high school without adequate knowledge of the world to know how to survive in it, much less prosper and do well.

The ACT results are much worse than I anticipated. And I knew they would be bad. Only 3% of Indian students were well prepared for college in the field of math—the worst area. This means they have taken four or five years of math, including Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, and Trigonometry. For science, engineering, medicine, and math graduates, it also means they have had Calculus.

ACT reports only 8% of Indian students were qualified in science, 15% in reading, and 20% in English. Only 10% of Indian students met all the benchmarks for college—English, reading, math, and science.

The benchmarks for Indian students to do well in college in the following areas were:

- English 18 (40th percentile)
- Social Sciences 22 (55th percentile)
- Math 22 (55th percentile)
- Biology 23 (58th percentile)

The percentage of Indian students preparing for the fastest growing career fields was very low. The percentages of Indian students planning to go into these fields were:

- Education, 6%
- Computers, 2%
- Community Services, 7%
- Management, 5%
- Marketing, 1%.

I started collecting data on this topic 40 years ago. When I was

President of Bacone College, I collected three years of data on Bacone entering freshmen. The average ACT score was a 13, which is the twentieth percentile. This means that there were more students below a 13 than there were above it. The student who scored a 20, the fiftieth percentile, was rare. None scored as high as a 25, which is basically the 65th percentile.

Then 15 years ago I did one of the few studies of the college preparation of Indian students. Out of 5,002 students in the study, only a tiny handful were ready for college. I estimated that fewer than 10% were really ready for college. Only 4% had taken calculus, which is mandatory for anyone going into math, engineering, medicine, and science.

A few weeks ago, the State of New Mexico came out with a report that said that 54% of high school graduates who went on to college had to take remedial courses in college. For Indian students, the percentage was higher, at 59%. A student who was required to take one remedial course in college had only a 17% chance of finishing college. And a student who had to take two remedial courses in college had only a 5% chance of ever earning a college degree.

The dropout rates for Indians in college are very high. My next book, "The American Indian Dropout," will show that the national completion rate for Indians in college is only 18%. There are a tiny handful of colleges, including Stanford, Harvard, Dartmouth, Yale, and Arizona State, that have high completion rates. The other 300+ have Indian dropout rates between 65% and 85%. When the push for getting Indian students into college started in the 1970s,

the Ivies were determined to do it right. They had strict limitations on the people who got in and have maintained completion rates of 80% to 90%. The only one that has changed its failure rate to success is Arizona State, and it was the work of one person. Peterson Zah, the former chairman of the Navajo Nation, completely turned that institution around between 1995 and 2000.

Who is to blame here? Is it the tribe, the parents, the school, the school board, the community, or what? My answer is simple. It is the school.

The ones who have made up their minds to improve have done so. They include Navajo Prep, Wellpinit, Chugach, Mount Adams, Galena, Fort McDowell, Cass Lake, Barona, Lac Courte Oreilles, Mount Edgecumbe, Nebo, St. Michael, Salmon River, Southampton, and Southern Ute. Both Wellpinit and Navajo Prep have sent 100% of students on to college for a given year.

The other 730 Indian high schools have done little to improve. They are still stuck in the 1950s. They are convinced that Indian students cannot learn the basics of college skills, so they do not include them in the curriculum. Indian students get to the twelfth grade, then decide they want to go to college. So they apply and get admitted. But most of them do not make it past the first year. Six out of seven of them never earn a college degree.

Any other ethnic group would be picketing, disrupting board meetings, making demands on school principals, and giving counselors a piece of their minds. But as my friend Ernie says, Indians are too nice. We don't want to make a fuss. We don't want to

cause trouble. So we let another generation of our kids fall through the cracks.

Instead of taking Geometry and Trig, our kids are taking welding, driver's education, general math, and bonehead English. The counselors need to do their job. We need to get our kids ready for college. Vocational stuff is old and outdated.

Seventy-eight of us took over Alcatraz Island in 1969 because of this problem. To my frustration, we are still stuck about where we were then. Not a whole lot has gotten better. Our numbers have gone up. In 1969 there were only about 2,000 Indian students in college in the whole U. S. Today that number is about 70,000. But their success rate is still very low. We need more Indian doctors, nurses, teachers, biologists, engineers, lawyers, and business people in a bad way.

Every time I hear about an Indian elder having to wait one or two days to see a doctor, it breaks my heart. And when they die from lack of medical treatment, I get mad. The non-Indians who come to Indian Country only stay one or two years. Then they run back to the city.

We need to be more pushy, people. We've been nice long enough. It's time we stood up and insisted that the schools get our kids ready for life. Our people need it.

Dr. Dean Chavers is Director of *Catching the Dream*, a scholarship program in Albuquerque. CTD also makes grants to Indian schools to help them improve. Contact him at CTD4DeanChavers@aol.com. He was the first Mainland Coordinator for the Indian occupation of Alcatraz in 1969.

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"Where every day is Indian Day"

NDSU program specializes in American Indian health

By DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) – A North Dakota State University program is offering an advanced degree for students looking to improve the health of American Indians, and school officials are touting it as the only specialization of its kind in the country.

NDSU earlier this year instituted a master of public health degree with a curriculum designed to prepare graduates to work with Native American health systems. Students have been studying health-related issues like substance abuse, diabetes, smoking, suicide, post-traumatic stress disorder, poverty and historical trauma.

The program could be a “game-changer,” North Dakota Indian Affairs Commissioner Scott Davis said.

“I think in two or three years you are going to see those graduates go back and help their respective tribes,” Davis said. “We have all been taught to go away and get our education and come back and help our people. That hasn’t changed for decades.”

The program is the brainchild of Dr. Donald Warne, a Kyle, S.D., native and enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe who received his bachelor’s degree from Arizona State University and medical degree from Stanford. He later earned a master of public health degree from Harvard.

Warne said there’s “an incredible lack of understanding” about American Indian health issues, and felt his view was verified while attending school at Harvard.

“I was impressed by how much my instructors knew about urban public health, or global health,” Warne said. “They had no clue what was happening in Indian country when it comes to health disparities.”

Warne, 47, who has worked on tribal lands as a primary care doctor, health

consultant and researcher, said he decided to start a program rather than complain about it.

“It actually feels like I am working further upstream than I have at any time in my career,” said Warne, who last year was nominated by two American Indian groups to become the next U.S. surgeon



COURTESY PHOTO

North Dakota State University has instituted a master of public health degree.

general. “The quality of students we are bringing in are remarkable. This is something I find very gratifying.”

Students say they were drawn to the program partly because they are learning from health care experts who are Native Americans. Warne is one of three American Indian teachers in the program, along with Donna Grandbois, assistant professor of nursing, and Linda Frizzell, American Indian data coordinator.

“As a Native American tribal member, nurse and health educator, I have seen firsthand the devastating results of the grave health disparities and inequities that continue to exist among Native people, both urban and those living on reservations,” Grandbois said.

Statistics from the Indian Health Service show that American Indians and Alaska Natives have a life expectancy that is more than four years fewer than the rest of U.S.

citizens. A Census Bureau survey last year showed that those two groups have the highest national poverty rate at 27 percent, which Warne said creates further challenges to improving overall health of the population.

Warne came from one of the poorest tribes in the country on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

“Indian Health Service is terribly underfunded,” Warne said. “There’s a saying in Indian health: Don’t get sick after June. The reason is we run out of money. That is the fault of Congress. We have a lot of things stacked against us in terms of poverty and politics.”

There are 18 core credit hours in the program, including classes on American Indian health policy, health disparities, cultural competence, research and case studies. Students are required to take one elective course and complete a practicum and masters paper. The program is open to anyone in the country through distance education.

One of the students turned her focus toward indigenous food systems and has helped to maintain five community gardens in the Fargo area that are used by about 130 families. Another student has elected to study American Indian elder care.

Jacob Davis, 33, is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota, where he spent several years working on a genetics research program. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Minot State and is pursuing the master’s degree specialization because he wants to work for a nonprofit and develop proposals for Native communities based on their needs.

“You need to start at a young age and develop programs where we interact with the Native American children and help them grow up healthy, and help them realize what’s good and what’s bad,” Davis said.

Bacone College to host benefit powwow June 28

MUSKOGEE, Okla. – The Murrow Indian Children’s Home is hosting its third annual benefit powwow from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. on June 28 at the Palmer Center at 2299 Old Bacone Road on the Bacone College campus.

The public is invited and admission is free. People are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

The powwow will begin with gourd dancing at 2 p.m. followed by supper at 5 p.m. Gourd dancing will resume at 6 p.m. followed by the powwow grand entry at 7 p.m.

The head staff includes Master of Ceremonies Mark Wilson and Head Singer Tim Washee. Elizabeth Battiest will serve as the head lady dancer and Kyle Reans will serve as headman dancer. Head Gourd Dancer will be Judd Pearman and President of the Tulsa Powwow Club Robbie Anquoe will serve as arena director. The color guard will be the United Keetoowah Honor Guard.

All drums, Native royalty and dancers are invited to the powwow. Contests will include men’s combined and women’s combined and tiny tots. All contestants must be in the grand entry. Silent auctions, a cakewalk and 50/50 raffles also will be a part of the fundraising event.

The powwow will assist the Murrow Indian Children’s Home with paying for the needs of its resident children. The mission of Murrow Indian Children’s Home is to provide a safe, nurturing environment, spiritual foundation and cultural experience to Native American Children in crisis.

There are five cottages on the MICH campus. Three of the cottages are devoted to the children and have the capacity to house 10 children each. One of the additional cottages is used for staff offices and one is used to house volunteers. These cottages provide a safe, loving Christian home environment for Native American children from various tribes in Oklahoma.

Arts and crafts vendors are welcome. Vendors should call Shari Kamp at 918-682-2586 or 918-616-4577 for information.

Also, powwow organizers are seeing in-kind donations and sponsorships, which are tax deductible.

There are \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1000 and \$5,000 sponsorships available. Sponsorships should be finalized by June 1.

Call Betty R. Martin at 918-682-2586 for further information about the powwow or email murrowhomedirector@gmail.com.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Wyandotte Nation is requesting the services of a professional Architect to design and develop plans/specifications for a Culture Center/Museum building project, funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Details of this project will be made available to interested parties upon request. Indian preference will be observed, and at this time, only proposals from qualified Indian owned professional architect firms will be accepted. The proposed project will be constructed using Green Standard Energy Star appliances, Geothermal HVAC and Solar Thermal Banking.

Selection will be based on a firm’s ability to work with the Tribe and experience of similar projects. All contractors will be required to comply with Section 3 and Davis Bacon.

The project location is in close proximity to the existing Tribal facilities, on land owned by Wyandotte Nation. Interested parties should contact Mr. Ron Kaiser; Planning/Development Director at 918-678-6325. The Tribe must receive all qualification submissions for consideration before March 28, 2014.

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Timothy Tate Nevaquaya discovers the dance of art

By KAREN SHADE
Native Times

JENKS, Okla. – In the lines of his paintings – the crisp, distinct, almost hyper-luminescent lines that seem to shatter on visual impact – Timothy Tate Nevaquaya sees the influence of his father, the acclaimed Comanche artist Doc Tate Nevaquaya. Although the elder passed in 1996, he left behind an artistic legacy that runs like a current through his children – almost all artists. To his son, that legacy lives, breathes and still creates.

“When I’m inside the four corners of this canvas, I take a journey, and I hope and pray that whoever sees my work goes on that same journey and takes them to a beautiful place of fantasy and mystery, even healing,” Nevaquaya says in his studio and gallery, Nevaquaya Fine Arts: A Legacy Gallery.

On a quiet week night at RiverWalk Crossing, the Jenks shopping center purchased last year by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the gallery is awake and art work in the front gallery glows under lamps. They’re not just works by Timothy Nevaquaya. The gallery exhibits pieces by Ruthe Blalock Jones, Jack “BlackHorse” Tointigh, Doug Crowder, Star Hardridge, Bob Creeping Bear, Richard Sanders and Calvert Nevaquaya, his younger brother. In the largest room at the gallery, Nevaquaya (who is also Choctaw) does his work under the gazes of shawl-wrapped women, stomp dancers, stickball players and agile deer – all depicted in a collage of artistic styles. His own work, such as the three-panel piece titled *The Dance of the Apache Mountain Spirits*, watches him work, too. Inspired by the sacred dances of the Chiricahua Apache tribe of western Oklahoma, the work vividly shows ceremonial dancers in the throes of spiritual passion. To the average viewer, the work is in Nevaquaya’s signature style, nothing like his father’s. But the artist sees Doc Tate’s prints all over it. The traditional forms and the subject matter are his father’s influence, a consequence of learning from one of the most important Native American artists of the 20th century beginning at the age of three. Doc Tate surrounded himself with artists.

“I started to observe what they

were doing and realized from an early age this was what I was going to do for the rest of his life,” he says.

As a child, he drew. As he grew older, Nevaquaya became an apprentice to his father. They collaborated on paintings often, as the son did background work upon which Doc Tate painted the exquisite detail for which he was noted. The elder Nevaquaya practiced a style of painting first made prominent by the Kiowa Five artists – a style that depicted images in flat two-dimensional representations using neutral or pastel colors. This approach was called the traditional style, and its practitioners ushered in a new era of Native American art.

In his early 20s, Nevaquaya became serious about his art and looked to his father and other masters of the traditional approach for direction. It wasn’t until about seven years ago that he discovered his own.

“As time went on, I started to learn that form of art, but I realized that there was something more to what I was doing,” he says. “...I was doing realistic art, and I came to a point in my art when



PHOTOS BY KAREN SHADE | NATIVETIMES
Timothy Tate Nevaquaya stands in front of a portrait of his father, artist Doc Tate Nevaquaya.

himself, Nevaquaya continued to smudge the lines on his canvas, curious to see what would happen next.

“People talk about having a ‘happy accident,’ but to me this far excelled that,” he says. “... The more spontaneous I got, it seemed like the painting actually started to improve. I began to realize that something was starting to evolve here. Right there was the beginning

struggled so long with his work and had hopes to become a full-time artist. It was a personal revelation. Through his new technique, Nevaquaya was able to translate the mystery and spiritual power of the ceremonial dancers that had fascinated him since his youth. And like the Comanche warriors who painted symbols of the spirit world on their war shields, he was practicing a form of medicine. It’s



Timothy Tate Nevaquaya works on a painting last week inside his studio at RiverWalk Crossing in Jenks.

I was frustrated with what I was doing because there were no real breakthroughs. I was struggling at that time.”

Then he had his revelation. While working on a piece, he smeared the paint. At the point of correcting

of the new revolution, new growth. It was like learning a new language in seconds, and for once in my life, I actually let my intuition take over.”

It was actually more than a revolution for an artist who had

still good for his soul, he says.

“The dance was really mysterious to me. In grade school, my teachers didn’t quite understand the images I was doing. They didn’t realize that I was starting an art career. I didn’t realize it. Today, they’re a primary

focus of what I do,” he says.

Last year, he and his brother Calvert created an art installation for the grand opening of the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas. They created a 16-foot teepee painted with images of a buffalo hunt and gatherings in their own artistic styles. The Buffalo Warriors’ Lodge was contemporary in its design but also drew on historical symbols to tell the narrative of a man’s life. A year earlier, they held a joint show of their works in an exhibit titled *Breaking Traditions* at the Southern Plains Indian Museum in Anadarko. These days, the painting commissions are coming in steadily as a result of the clientele he and his wife, Alicia Nevaquaya, have worked hard to build over the years.

As important as it was for Nevaquaya and his brothers to discover their own artistic identity apart from their father’s, he is the first extol his elder’s achievements. Not only does he help carry on his father’s legacy in painting, Nevaquaya continues Doc Tate’s other great triumph – reviving Native American flute playing and making. The sons all either play and or make flutes the way their father did.

When he plays the flute in the gallery, the tone wraps around the walls, and Nevaquaya himself takes on the enigmatic quality he strives to connect with in his painting. It looks so effortless.

“People think that being an artist is the easy life, that you can sit back and paint. Although I love it, you still have to work at it,” Nevaquaya says. “Those paintings don’t just happen, you have to design your palette, you have to manipulate the colors the way you want them, and that’s before your initial drawing even goes on the canvas and all the prep work.”

But it’s worth it.

“I tell a lot of up-and-coming artists that the only way this knowledge will come to you is by being consistent in the work you’re doing. You’ll never have the grand revelation until you start to indulge in what you’re doing, because all you’re doing is learning and learning and learning. I tell them to keep reading, keep searching, be passionate about what it is, and this thing will come alive on you and will help you.”

Grape dumplings class part of food sovereignty initiative

By LISA SNELL
Native Times

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The first question came quickly. “How much flour do you use?”

Mary Watashe looked up, a twinkle in her eyes and a big grin creasing her face.

“It’s all just guesswork,” she said.

She went back to mixing Welch’s grape juice into the mound of flour on the cutting board in front of her. A hot plate next to her held a stockpot full of simmering grape juice. Nearby, a wooden rolling pin waited flouring.

“Is that regular flour or self-rising?”

“Regular.”

Watashe, an enrolled

citizen of the Euchee Tribe of Oklahoma, was making Pvrko Afke (grape dumplings) a simple treat of two, maybe three ingredients according to taste, and today she had an audience. More than 75 people filled the room at the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative, some on the edge of their seats, craning for a better look as Watashe kneaded the purple dough and cracked jokes.

“For all you diabetics, I use Splenda,” she chuckled, then said almost to herself, “I forgot the sugar.”

“Someone bring me the sugar!”

A crock of sugar was brought. Watashe peered over the rim of the tall stockpot and squinted before sifting in a good half cup,

maybe more, directly into the pot and giving it a stir.

“I don’t measure anything,” she said and grinned. She picked up a shiny silver scoop and dipped out a measure of juice and took a sip. She smacked her lips. “Just right!”

She went back to the dough and formed a ball. It looked like pale purpled Play-Doh. She floured the rolling pin and rolled the dough out to about a ¼” thickness, adding more flour as she went to keep the dough from sticking to the pin.

Satisfied with the thickness and consistency of the dough, she began cutting strips through the dough and cutting the strips into squares.

“What kind of knife do

you use?” came a question from the audience.

Another grin from Watashe.

“Any one that will cut,” she joked. She was using a butter knife.

She began dropping the squares of dough into the simmering pot of juice, her fingertips thickly coated with dough and flour. She was careful not to splash the hot liquid.

“How long do you cook them?” someone asked.

This time Watashe looked surprised.

“Why, until I’m done making them!” She shook her head as if that was the silliest thing she’d ever heard and went back to the task of kneading another batch of dough, rolling it out, and

cutting squares of dumplings for the pot.

She gave the pot a stir after dropping each new batch in.

Traditionally, grape dumplings were made with possum grapes, a wild grape that hangs from woody vines that are often found wrapped up and dangling from trees along creek banks and in wooded areas. The fruit is small and sour, with little pulp. They ripen in late summer or early fall. Getting enough juice from possum grapes takes a lot of grapes and a lot of work.

“I just use Welch’s,” Watashe said. “It works just fine.”

As the dumplings simmered, the cooked ones rose. Eventually, all the dumplings were crowded at

the top and the grape juice had thickened from the flour that fell from Watashe’s fingers as she dropped the dough into the hot grape juice.

Time to eat.

– *The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative is hosting traditional foods cooking classes once a month. The next class is yet to be announced, but updates may be found on their Facebook page, Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative and online at www.mvskokefood.org. For more information call 918-756-5915 or 918-756-2701. Classes are free and open to everyone. The MFSI offices are located at 100 E. 7th Street, Ste. 101, Okmulgee (next door to KOKL radio station).*



PHOTO BY LISA SNELL | NATIVETIMES
Mary Watashe answers questions March 22 at the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative’s offices while she makes grape dumplings.

Grape Dumplings

For dumplings:

- 1 Cup flour
- 2 Tsp sugar
- ½ Cup grape juice
- (Approximate measurements)

For cooking:

Remainder of 48 oz jug of grape juice



Mix flour and sugar. Add juice and mix into stiff dough.

Roll dough very thin on floured board and cut into strips ½” wide (or roll dough in hands and break off pea-sized bits).

Drop into lightly boiling grape juice and cook for 10 - 12 minutes.



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EVENTS

***Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.**

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Class - through April 23, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 302, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, OKC

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcrc.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

***The American Indian Exposition** Osage Director is announcing the 2014 Osage Princess Applications are available for girls ages 16-24 interested in applying. The voting will be held at the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority Dance, the date & location has not been confirmed. In order to vote, your Osage CDIB card or Membership card is required. For applications, it is on the Osage Nation News website or contact Angela Satepauhoodle Toineeta #918.885.2976.

MARCH 28
Deadline for IHS Scholarship

Applications. Indian Health Services annually awards around 100 scholarships offering qualified American Indian and Alaska Native students an educational foundation in Indian health. For more information, visit www.ihs.gov/scholarship/index.cfm

APRIL 4
NdN taco sale 11am-3pm, at Indian Fellowship Baptist Church: 6130 S. 58th W. Ave, Oakhurst. \$7 for a taco and dessert. Info or for delivery, call Mary @ 918-636-8394.

APRIL 5
Checotah Native Art Market, 9am-4pm at the Heartland Heritage Museum & Gallery, 116 N Broadway, Checotah. Paintings, beadwork, textiles, leather crafts, cultural items, jewel, music, demonstrations, Native food concessions and more. Free to the public. For information call Frankie Blagg, 918-916-9015

Bacone College Benefit Dance at Old Warrior Gym, 2299 Old Bacone Road, Muskogee. Gourd Dancing starts at 3pm, War Dance at 6pm. More info contact Elsie Whitehorn | 918-360-3617 | whitehorne@bacone.edu

Native Voices in Recovery Benefit Dance at Custer County Fairgrounds, Clinton,

Okla. Gourd Dance at 3pm.

Pawnee Scout Symposium at 8:30 am, location TBA. For information contact (918) 762-3363, ext. 11, or mburgess@pawneenationcollege.org

APRIL 12
Benefit Powwow for United Indian Methodist Church, Apache, Okla., at the Comanche Community Center. Gourd Dancing at 2pm, Social and War Dancing starts at 7pm.

Memorial Service and Family Gathering for Paul Travis Rhodes at 12 pm, Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center 13839 South Casper North of intersection Highway 75 and 141st Meal will be served following service. Gourd Dance 2 - 4 pm Stomp Dance 4 – 5:30 pm Supper served 5:30 – 6:30 pm Gourd Dance 6:30 – 7:30 pm War Dance 8 – ? pm Contests for Men and Women 18 and older Crowning of White Buffalo calf Princess. Contacts: 918-606-1447 and 918-760-3039

APRIL 13
UCO Contest Powwow Hamilton Fieldhouse Edmond, Okla. Gourd dancing at 2 p.m., Grand Entry at 7 p.m.

APRIL 19
Sapulpa Public Schools NASA contest powwow at Sapulpa High School gym, 3 S. Mission Street, Sapulpa. Gourd dancing at 3, grand entry at 6:30

APRIL 25-27
United Cherokee 16th Annual Festival and Native American Powwow, 9:00AM 'til 5:00PM at 3550 Creek Path Road, Guntersville, Alabama 35976 Contact: (256) 582-2333 or ucanonline@bellsouth.net

MAY 17
Old Fashioned Cherokee Picnic and Traditional Games at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oolagah – gate opens at 10 am. Hogfry, games, children's activities and more. Information call Ollie Starr at 918-760-7499.

JUNE 6-8, 2014
Chilocco Indian School Class of 1964 50th Year Reunion - The Chilocco Indian School class of 1964 will be celebrating their 50th year reunion at the annual June 2014 Chilocco reunion. For contact and planning purposes, the 1964 Chilocco graduates are requested to contact Charley Johnson, Jr., P.O. Box 531, Bixby, OK 74008 - Telephone No. (918) 366-6158, e-mail address is johnson6158@olp.net

NATIVE TIMES

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MARCH 31- APRIL 4, 2014

Judge: Indian voting case can proceed

By MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) – A voting rights lawsuit from members of three American Indian tribes in Montana will go forward after a federal judge rejected attempts by state and county officials to

dismiss the case. Members of the Crow, Northern Cheyenne and Fort Belknap tribes want county officials to set up satellite voting offices to make up for the long distances they must travel to reach courthouses for early voting or late registration.

Judge Donald Molloy said in a Wednesday order that the plaintiffs’ claims of discrimination are plausible enough that the case should proceed. The 1965 Voting Rights Act prohibited state-sanctioned discrimination against minorities.

Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch and officials from Blaine, Rosebud and Big Horn counties were named as defendants in the lawsuit, which has been pending since before the 2012 election. Molloy rejected a claim that there could not have

been voting rights violations because members of Indian tribes can and have elected tribal representatives to local and state offices. That argument was accepted by former U.S. District Judge Richard Cebull as part of his rationale for turning down

an injunction sought by the Indian plaintiffs in the lead-up to the 2012 election. But Molloy indicated that the success of some Indian candidates in elections does not exclude the possibility of continued discrimination.

See **VOTE** on Page 2

Temporary injunction against Caddo leader remains in place

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

ANADARKO, Okla. – A temporary emergency injunction against a claimant leader of the Caddo Nation will remain in place for at least a few more days. On March 25, Ronald McGee, a judge with the Court of Indian Offenses at the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Southern Plains regional office, overruled a motion from Brenda Shemayme Edwards to dismiss an injunction that prohibits her from conducting business on behalf of the tribe, including spending any government funds or grants. Re-elected as chairwoman last summer, Edwards was subject to a recall petition within weeks of taking office. Since then, the tribe has had two factions claiming to be its legitimate authority, with one administration, currently led by Anthony Cotter, working out of the Caddo Nation complex and another, led by Edwards, working off-site. The injunction request stems from a March 10 Caddo Tribal Council meeting affiliated with the Cotter government. Twenty-one tribal citizens – one more than the constitutionally-required minimum for quorum -- signed off on bringing a case forward to the Court of



Brenda Shemayme Edwards

See **CADDO** on Page 2

Tribal, Shawnee officials meet; tax flap continues

■ Many other tribal retail outlets across Oklahoma do not assess city sales taxes on tangible purchases.

By LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

SHAWNEE, Okla. – Municipal and tribal officials met March 24 to discuss the sales tax revenues generated by tribally-owned businesses, but two vastly different stories about that meeting’s outcome have emerged. Citing slumping revenue streams, Shawnee city officials have been trying to collect sales tax dollars associated with tangible purchases made by non-Natives at tribal properties with a Shawnee mailing address. The Absentee Shawnee, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Kickapoo and Sac and Fox each have at least one business that would potentially be impacted if the city is successful. In a written statement released Monday afternoon, city officials apologized for disrespecting tribal sovereignty and expressed hope that an agreement would be reached through subsequent meetings.

“We are pleased that these tribal leaders were willing to meet with us,” Mayor Wes Mainord said. “The dialogue is important, and I think we all learned something from the discussion.” Other than to emphasize that no decision has been made



Chairman “Rocky” Barrett

See **TAXES** on Page 3



Miccosukee children line up at a media event at the Miccosukee Embassy in Miami.

ANDREW WEST | NEWS-PRESS.COM PHOTO

Tradition a delicate balance for Fla. tribes

By CHAD GILLIS
The News-Press

MIAMI (AP) – Cobalt blues and salmon pinks flash by like a meteor shower during a new moon as a group of middle school students parade through the main hall of the Miccosukee Embassy in Miami. Dressed in colorful patchwork shirts and dresses, the 18 students are here to say the pledge of allegiance. The pledge isn’t to the American flag. It’s to the Miccosukee flag and a people who have survived 500 years of oppression. “All helping one another,” as one line says when translated into English. These children are tribal members, part owners of

the vast gambling and resort corporation. They’re also the newest generation of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, who number about 600 and live mostly on reservation lands about 100 miles southeast of Fort Myers. Once finished, the children scamper off to the banks of the Miami River, the aquatic artery that once connected the Miccosukee to the entire Everglades. There they eat fry bread and sip sodas, talk about the Internet, cellphones and school. Miccosukee chairman Colley Billie takes the stage, his baritone voice bouncing off the marble floor. “It was our refuge, it was a place that fed us,” Billie says. “And the reason we

wound up in the Everglades is because the United States government was unleashed on us to exterminate us. We went into the Florida Everglades as a place of refuge. We will always consider it our home.” The Everglades has changed in the last century, and Indians have changed with it. From a mostly ancient life of hunting, gathering and spiritual ceremonies, modern Indians have mastered the American economic model, building an international casino and resort empire. The challenge is maintaining traditions and protecting the Everglades from further ecological damage while integrating technology and moving

even more into the modern world. Like any group, they vary in personal beliefs, spiritual convictions and financial status, but all factions The News-Press interviewed over the past eight months have similar goals: Grow their power and influence across the region – economically, environmentally and spiritually. The tribes are taking control through a gambling and resort empire that brings in billions of dollars of revenue each year (the Seminole Tribe reported \$2 billion in revenue in 2012). Both the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

See **CULTURE** on Page 4

United Keetoowah Band leader Charles Locust laid to rest



Charles Locust

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Funeral services for Charles D. Locust, assistant chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, were held on March 26 at the Cherokee Baptist Association Tabernacle in Briggs, with Revs. Gil Hooper and Dale Wilson officiating. Personal remarks were set

to be delivered by George Tiger, chief of the Muscogee Creek Nation, and Wahlesah Rose. Visitation was held March 25 at the Reed-Culver Chapel in Tahlequah with a wake service following. Interment was held at Tyler Springs Cemetery in Stilwell. Online condolences for

the family may be left at www.reedculver.com. Pallbearers for Charles were Charley Barr, Terry Kingfisher, Herman Jimerson, Bryan Shade, J.D. Teehee and J.C. Wilson. Honorary pallbearers were Bo Brancheau, Matt

See **LOCUST** on Page 5



Cherokee Nation commemorates 175 years since Trail of Tears

■ **Principal Chief Bill John Baker proclaims March 24 as “Cherokee Nation Remembrance Day.”**

By TRAVIS NOLAND
Cherokee Nation Media Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — It was 175 years ago that the final group of Cherokees ended the journey across the Trail of Tears. The detachment arrived on March 24, 1839, in Indian Territory near present-day Tahlequah.

“We will remember and honor the sacrifices made by our ancestors. The Cherokees on the trip gave up so much – homes, lands and local family traditions. They endured unfathomable hardships and tragedy,” said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker. “Collectively, they never gave up and never relinquished the fortitude to continue another day’s travel, one step at a time, on the trail to modern-day Oklahoma.”

The first detachment of Cherokees was forcibly removed from their homelands in the southeast beginning in 1838.



Principal Chief Bill John Baker unveils a painting by Cherokee artist Dorothy Sullivan, left, during a Trail of Tears commemoration ceremony on March 24 at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Park Hill, Okla. The day marked 175th year since the Cherokee’s forced removal from southeastern homelands ended.

Baker memorialized the conclusion of the forced removal with a proclamation declaring March 24 as “Cherokee Nation Remembrance Day.”

“We are here today in Tahlequah as a sovereign government with a living culture because of their perseverance. It is a strength most of us cannot imagine today, but it is in our blood and in our DNA,” Baker said. “Our people were stripped of everything, withstood generations of termination policies, and yet that fire to live and thrive would not be extinguished.”

“We should all be proud the Cherokee Nation is now a national model for economic, political and cultural sustainability. As Cherokee people, we are stronger today than ever before.”

The remembrance event was held at the Cherokee Heritage Center, where museum officials displayed, for the first time in public, a petition by Principal Chief John Ross asking

the U.S. government not to move forward with the forced removal of his people. These papers will be viewable by the public through April.

As part of the day’s events, Cherokee artist Dorothy Sullivan unveiled the third piece of a series of paintings depicting scenes from the Trail of Tears. All three paintings were commissioned by the National Parks Service and will be on display at the Cherokee Heritage Center.

The commemoration kicks off a series of events that are being planned by a committee established by Chief Baker with appointments from Cherokee Nation’s three branches of government. It is chaired by Cherokee Nation Attorney General Todd Hembree and includes Cherokee Nation Tribal Council Attorney Dianne Barker Harrold and Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice Angela Jones. Events commemorating milestones for the Cherokee people in Indian Territory will be held between now and Cherokee National Holiday this summer. The holiday annually commemorates the signing of the 1839 Cherokee Constitution.

Social Security launches faster new disability process for vets

Fast-tracking Disability Decisions for Vets with 100% Permanent and Total Rating

WASHINGTON – Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, has announced the launch of a new disability process to expedite disability claims filed by veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total (P&T). Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans’ applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way the agency currently handles disability claims from Wounded Warriors.

“We have reached another milestone for those who have sacrificed so much for our country and this process ensures they will get the benefits they need quickly,” said Acting Commissioner Colvin. “While we can never fully repay them for their sacrifices, we can be sure we provide them with the quality of service that they deserve. This initiative is truly a lifeline for those who need it most.”

“No one wants to put America’s veterans through a bureaucratic runaround,” said

Maryland Congressman John Sarbanes, a leading proponent for increasing assistance to veterans. “As the baby boomer generation ages and more veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan need care, this common sense change will help reduce backlogs and cut through unnecessary red tape so that our most disabled veterans receive the benefits they’ve earned.”

In order to receive the expedited service, veterans must tell Social Security they have a VA disability compensation rating of 100% P&T and show proof of their disability rating with their VA Notification Letter.

The VA rating only expedites Social Security disability claims processing and does not guarantee an approval for Social Security disability benefits. These veterans must still meet the strict eligibility requirements for a disability allowance.

For information about this service, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm.

For more about Social Security’s handling of Wounded Warrior’s disability claims, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

CADDO

Continued from Page 1

Indian Affairs.

The two governments have passed conflicting resolutions concerning the Court of Indian Affairs’ relationship with the Caddo Nation’s affairs. The Cotter administration has granted the court jurisdiction while the Edwards administration has filed paperwork to have the tribe removed from the court’s oversight.

“I’m not convinced that the date the dispute arose...should determine whether this court has jurisdiction,” McGee said before a standing room only courtroom. “It’s clear to me that you can’t take jurisdiction away after it’s been granted.”

An evidentiary hearing is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Monday at the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Anadarko agency. Citing agency overreach, Edwards filed a motion for

a temporary restraining order with the Western District of Oklahoma to block the injunction, but a decision had not been given as of press time.

With the temporary injunction extended as written, an estimated 55 people did not receive paychecks Friday, March 28. Since being removed from the complex six months ago, Edwards has continued to pay tribal employees who have remained loyal to her administration. The Cotter administration has replaced them, citing job abandonment.

“This is a time-sensitive matter,” McGee said. “My heart goes out to people who might have to go a week without pay, but I’m not going to alter Judge (Phil) Lujan’s order.”

The internal turmoil has placed the tribe’s self-governance contracts in danger of potentially being revoked, with the Bureau of Indian Affairs labeling the tribe a “high risk” recipient in December.

A hearing about the status of those programs is scheduled for Tuesday.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

The Missoula-based judge took over the case after Cebull resigned last year, in the wake of revelations that he’d sent hundreds of racist and otherwise inappropriate emails, including at least one involving President Barack Obama.

Attorneys for the state have argued that McCulloch shouldn’t be included in the case because satellite voting decisions are up to counties. Molloy disagreed, saying her office has the power to issue directives on satellite voting to county election administrators and the duty to make sure elections are uniformly fair.

Voter turnout on Montana reservations runs at about 30 percent, but turnout for tribal elections that require no long-distance travel runs as high as 70 percent. Plaintiffs say the satellite offices could increase turnout in county, state and national elections.

County officials have argued that it would be too difficult to train workers for the satellite offices and to rent the equipment to run them.

Molloy granted a defense request to remove three of the 16 plaintiffs from the case.

Two of the dismissed plaintiffs failed to prove they were registered voters. The third lived closer to the county seat – where early voting and late registration already take place – than to a proposed satellite voting office, Molloy said.

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CAROLINE YANG | COURTESY THE UPTAKE
Riders from the Dakota 38 Plus 2 Reconciliation Ride arrive in downtown Mankato on December 26, 2012, for a ceremony to commemorate the execution of thirty-eight Dakota warriors on the day after Christmas in 1862. The ride left Lower Brule, South Dakota on December 10, and made fourteen stops along the 340 mile ride to Mankato.

Petition asks Obama to pardon Dakota 38

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) – A Mankato City Council member is seeking a presidential pardon for the 38 Dakota men hanged in a mass execution at the end of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

Jack Consadine submitted a petition to the White House after he learned about the history of the hangings, KTOE-AM reported. His petition seeks a posthumous

pardon for the “Dakota 38,” plus two Dakota men who were hanged later.

The hangings represent a dark chapter in history. Originally, 303 men were sentenced to be hanged after the war. President Abraham Lincoln was aware of injustices in the men’s trials, and he wrote a letter to Minnesota Gov. Alexander Ramsey listing 39 men who should be hanged, including

one who was later given a reprieve.

Some Native Americans believe Lincoln was wrong to order any of the hangings and that several of the men were innocent.

Consadine said he learned of the history and felt compelled to submit his petition.

“I based it primarily on the discrepancies in the trial. There were no defense

attorneys. No defense was allowed. Also, the trials were only 3 to 5 minutes long. They were conducted in English, and the Dakota didn’t understand the trial process,” he said.

Consadine said the Dakota believed their land and homes were being stolen, and they were left to starve, so they went to war as they always had.

Some disagree that there

should be a pardon, saying the Dakota’s war tactics were brutal.

As of Sunday, there were less than 700 signatures on the petition. A petition needs 100,000 signatures to be considered by President Barack Obama.

The petition can be found online at <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov>

Navajo drops appeal in religious sites access case

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – The Navajo Nation has dropped its appeal in a federal case involving property rights and access to religious sites.

The Navajo and Hopi tribes instead will let a commission hear their disagreements.

The neighboring tribes had agreed not to interfere with each other’s religious practices when they ended a decades-long land dispute.

The Hopi alleged a breach of that compact after one of its religious practitioners

was cited by Navajo police for trespassing last May.

The Navajo Nation argued that it couldn’t grant access to allotted land.

The commission set up to hear disputes said it lacked jurisdiction over the allotment holders. But a federal judge ruled the commission must decide the meaning of the compact.

The Navajo Nation appealed to the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals but dropped the challenge this month.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1

regarding potential litigation, the City of Shawnee declined to elaborate beyond its written statement. No dates have been announced for additional meetings between the city and tribal officials.

On the other side of the table, tribal officials were less than thrilled with the meeting at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s cultural heritage center. Describing Mainord’s opening remarks as “syrupy,” Citizen Potawatomi chairman John “Rocky” Barrett took issue with the city’s refusal to acknowledge the tribes’ jurisdictional authority.

“From the perspective of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the meeting was little more than a cosmetic attempt to make the city appear reasonable in the public eye because they offered to ‘negotiate,’” Barrett said in a written statement issued Monday evening.

“The negotiation was entirely one-sided. The only choice left to the CPN was to meet the city’s demands for tax collections or be sued in federal court. Each tribal leader present countered Mainord with statements of fact that the trust land of their nations is not in Shawnee and not subject to the city’s governmental authority.

“The city has not acted in good faith during these so-called ‘negotiations,’ in particular by making false statements to the media and turning this into a public controversy. Rather than take the time and courtesy, to propose to meet in a demonstration of mutual respect, the city has chosen to threaten litigation and attack as by way of press release prior to the meeting, then act as if they were generous in doing so.”

The largest of the four tribes involved, Citizen Potawatomi Nation has a discount grocery store, a gift shop, a casino and two convenience stores that could potentially be affected if the tribe is forced to start making payments to the City of Shawnee. One of the largest employers in Pottawatomie

County, the tribe employs 2,200 people and has an estimated economic impact of more than \$522 million.

In an effort to level the playing field, the tribe assesses the same 8.5 percent sales tax on purchases made at its stores as those made at non-tribal stores in the area, but puts a portion of its tax revenue towards scholarship funds and other tribal programs rather than send in money to the City of Shawnee.

As per a 1991 U.S. Supreme Court decision, tribes do not have to remit state sales taxes on purchases made by tribal citizens in tribally-owned businesses located on reservations or trust land. However, the decision does not say anything about taxes levied by county or municipal governments. The decision is also silent on how states are to collect tax revenue generated by non-tribal citizens.

Many other tribal retail outlets across Oklahoma – including those run by the state’s largest tribe, the Cherokee Nation – do not assess city sales taxes on tangible purchases.

NATIVE American TIMES



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Ex-Hopi chairman charged with Olympian bust theft

Ben Nuvamsa left the chairman’s office in late 2009, less than two years after he was sworn in following a special election. His time in office was marked by political chaos and ended in his resignation and that of the vice chairman.



Ben Nuvamsa

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – A former Hopi Tribe chairman has been charged with stealing a bronze bust of his grandfather, one of Indian Country’s most famous athletes, from a museum.

A criminal complaint filed in Hopi tribal court alleges that

Ben Nuvamsa took the bust of two-time Olympic distance runner Louis Tewanima without permission from the museum on the northeastern Arizona reservation.

Nuvamsa contends the charge is frivolous and said he had permission to pick up the bust in August for display at an annual Labor Day weekend race

that honors Tewanima, a silver medalist in the 10,000 meters at the 1912 Olympics.

“If anything, it belongs to the people,” said Nuvamsa, who lives in Pinetop. “Every year we celebrate his accomplishments, and people need to see it.”

Museum manager Anna Silas declined to comment.

Nuvamsa is scheduled to be arraigned on the theft charge next month. A warrant that was issued for his arrest was quashed Wednesday because authorities had the wrong address on file and he was not served with the complaint.

The bust, valued at \$8,000, sits in a police evidence room after being recovered from a property on the Hopi reservation, said U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs police Lt. Gibson Namoki. He declined further comment, citing the unresolved case.

The history of the bust

is unclear. The criminal complaint says it belongs to a museum near the village of Shungopavi. But Nuvamsa contends the sculpture should be in the hands of Tewanima’s family.

Nuvamsa said Silas was not at the museum when he arrived to pick up the bust on behalf of the race organizers, who had displayed it in the past. But he said her brother led him to the sculpture and helped him load it into his truck. Nuvamsa said he then dropped off the bust with Tewanima’s other relatives. Tewanima died in 1969 but remains a source of inspiration for Hopi runners.

Nuvamsa left the chairman’s office in late 2009, less than two years after he was sworn in following a special election. His time in office was marked by political chaos and ended in his resignation and that of the vice chairman.

SD tribe has ‘prayer camp’ to oppose oil pipeline

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) – A new front in the battle against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline is opening up for American Indian tribes and others in south-central South Dakota.

A group sanctioned by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is setting up a prayer camp near Mission to keep up pressure against TransCanada Corp.’s pipeline that would move 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Canada to Texas’ Gulf Coast refineries, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The pipeline also would move 100,000 barrels of domestic oil daily from North Dakota’s Bakken region.

Aldo Seoane, coordinator for the Shielding the People Project, said part of the pipeline’s path cuts through an area that contains tribal artifacts. The tribe also has concerns about trouble from pipeline workers and the tribe’s sovereign rights being violated by the project.

“Rosebud wasn’t consulted in the process of getting the pipeline put through,” said Seoane.

The \$5.3 billion pipeline would carry oil derived from tar sands in western Canada through the U.S. heartland to refineries in Texas.

Pipeline supporters, including lawmakers from both parties and many business and labor groups, say the project would create thousands of jobs and reduce the need for oil imports from Venezuela and other politically turbulent countries.

Opponents say the pipeline would carry “dirty oil” that contributes to global warming. They also worry about possible spills.

Vic Camp, an organizer with the group Owe Aku, has been working with tribes in the Midwest and western parts of the country that oppose the pipeline. Camp urged listeners on a South Dakota radio show Thursday to support the prayer camp.

“We say no to all mining and drilling for oil and any other mineral right now that can contaminate the water,” Camp said.

The proposed pipeline cleared a big hurdle in January when the State Department raised no major environmental objections to its construction. President Barack Obama has said he expects to make a decision on the project in the coming weeks.

Seoane said the prayer camp will be active until Obama “says ‘no’ on the pipeline.”

Financial adviser charged in Navajo criminal case

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – A former financial adviser for the Navajo Nation’s legislative branch funneled tens of thousands of dollars to her children in violation of tribal law, criminal complaints filed in tribal court allege.

Prosecutors say Laura Calvin personally signed off on more than \$46,000 in financial assistance requests for two of her children and four stepchildren. She is scheduled to be arraigned on six counts of conflicts of interest on April 21 in Window Rock District Court.

The charges against Calvin stem from an investigation into the use of a discretionary fund meant for Navajos who had no other way to pay expenses and that prohibited nepotism. Prosecutors said three of Calvin’s children and four stepchildren received \$79,000 from the fund over several years.

Attempts to reach Calvin, who served as

the financial adviser from 1995 to 2009, for comment Monday were unsuccessful. Two telephone numbers listed for Calvin at her Window Rock address were non-working numbers, and court documents do not list a defense attorney.

Prosecutors wrote in the criminal complaints that Calvin has refused to answer questions regarding money her children received so that she doesn’t incriminate herself.

The yearslong investigation into the use of the discretionary fund initially was focused on the Tribal Council, which set aside \$32 million for it from 2005 to 2010. But prosecutors said they had reason to believe that employees of the legislative branch were misusing the money. Prosecutors successfully sought approval last year to expand their jurisdiction to include Navajo Nation employees and those who benefited from the discretionary fund.

Calvin and an accounts specialist for the legislative branch are among those

who were charged criminally. Some former and current tribal lawmakers have settled their cases, while others are awaiting trial or have cases pending with the Navajo Nation Office of Hearings and Appeals.

Prosecutors allege that Calvin directly authorized more than 100 financial assistance requests to her children and stepchildren between 2005 and 2009, sometimes without disclosing that the payments were for her children or without supporting documentation. One of Calvin’s stepdaughters, the result of a marriage to former lawmaker Leonard Teller, received more than \$31,000 of the \$79,000, according to the criminal complaints. Reasons for the children’s financial requests varied from hardship, educational assistance, traditional ceremonies, rent and travel.

The tribe’s Supreme Court declared the discretionary fund program illegal in 2011.

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The tribe’s Supreme Court declared the discretionary fund program illegal in 2011.

CULTURE

Continued from Page 1

own resorts throughout much of Florida, the United States and in Europe and Asia.

These businesses started as high-stakes bingo in the 1970s, when the federal government gave exclusive gambling rights to Indian tribes. Although casinos were already established in the Miami area, the tribes have since established gambling in Tampa, Immokalee, Hollywood, Dania, Clewiston and Brighton. The businesses bring in billions of dollars of revenue each year, and members reportedly get \$100,000 or more in annual dividends for being part of the tribe.

Business ventures include:

- Casinos in Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, Ohio, Dominican Republic, China and Singapore
- Resorts in Florida, California, Mexico, Thailand and Malaysia
- Extensive cattle and farming operations.

Even sponsorships of a NASCAR team from 2002 through 2009 were part of their economic DNA.

The Seminole Tribe is looking to expand its empire. After canceling plans to build a \$465 million casino in Atlantic City, the Seminole

Tribe is reportedly interested in buying the Revel Casino Hotel, which would also give them an Internet gambling license – another entry into the gambling world.

And there is talk of expanding its Immokalee casino, including a possible Hard Rock hotel nearby.

The money means the tribes can hire attorneys and water management experts to fight or support state or federal water policy changes or any Everglades restoration projects.

“It’s not that we want to sue them,” says Miccosukee Tribe member Michael Frank about water management agencies and the National Park Service. “It’s just that they break their own laws.”

The traditional Indians – relatives of tribe Indians who shun reservation life and American politics – are fighting a moral and spiritual battle, citing human rights violations, genocide and centuries-old treaties.

The future of the traditional Indians seems grim. As many have said, they are going extinct. They don’t keep count of their people – it’s against their cultural ways – but the estimated population is around 100.

“In the old days we were taught to keep out of the white man’s way, but there are so many that we have to stand up and fight

for ourselves,” traditional Indian LeRoy M. Osceola explains.

They also want access to the national park lands – millions of acres Indians used for centuries. Everglades National Park lands were used to gather medicine, building materials and food. Those practices are now illegal because the lands are within a national park. Losing those lands makes living a traditional Indian life even more difficult, some say.

Bobby C. Billie and other Indians say these laws are used to force traditional Indians to live a more modern life. Regardless of their desires to hunt, fish and use medicine in their ancient ways, the outside world has made that life virtually impossible through laws and regulations.

“We have to talk to the government or Big Cypress preserve area to try to get into it to cut the material or go hunt or go fishing like we did when we was younger,” says Bobby C., a traditional Indian. “They say ‘you can’t do that. You have to buy a permit or buy a hunting license.’ But we can’t (buy a license). It’s not our way.”

Most Indian children are part of the Seminole or Miccosukee reservations, although a handful are being raised in traditional villages by non-reservation clans. Most attend reservation school through

eighth grade and then attend a public high school.

The modern wealth offers options as children start drawing reservation dividends shortly after birth. College, cars, houses, travel, fine meals, swamp buggies and airboats are financially feasible for reservation teens. Cellphones and iPads are common, too.

Some are preparing for college, others to be future tribal leaders, business owners, clothes designers, cowboys and environmental engineers.

Sandra-Laurie Osceola is focused on maintaining her traditional roots and clan ties. Her son, Standing Bear Osceola, 20 months, is one of a dozen or fewer Florida Indians still being raised in a traditional Indian village among non-reservation Indians.

Her future, she says, is with her clan – her close and extended family. Sandra-Laurie’s father, LeRoy M. Osceola, is one of the most outspoken traditional Indians and is the head of four generations of traditional Indians living on their own land, not within the reservation borders.

“I get asked all the time, why I don’t enroll and get the free money,” she says. “For me, it’s out of respect for my father, what he has taught us. I can’t imagine betraying him like that.”

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Thriving Nations - Resilient Peoples: NSU Symposium on the American Indian April 7-12

All events are free of charge and open to the public.

NSU Media Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – All are invited to attend Northeastern State University’s 42nd Annual Symposium on the American Indian, April 7-12. NSU’s Center for Tribal Studies will host the symposium on the Tahlequah campus.

The theme for the 2014 symposium is “Thriving Nations – Resilient Peoples” and includes, guest speakers, cultural activities, traditional art and institutional vendors and the 2014 NSU Powwow. This year the event will kick off with a 5K Resilience Run and 1K Fun Run on Saturday, April 5.

Guest speakers will examine the history, education, human experiences, the arts, social issues, and politics that impact tribal peoples. The symposium offers stimulating topics and diverse perspectives to inspire innovative thought on ways to secure and sustain well-being now and in the future. These presentations will be interspersed with cultural activities.

Confirmed speakers include: Dr. Donald Fixico, Distinguished Foundation Professor of History, School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe; Dr. Leanne Hinton, professor of Linguistics at the University of California at Berkley, and Director of the Survey of California and Other Indian Languages – a research unit which focuses on research and documentation of Native American languages; Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald, Chair of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Texas-Arlington; Stacy Leeds, Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville; Sarah Deer, Associate Professor, William Mitchell College of Law, St Paul, MN; Dr. Stacy Pratt, Assistant Professor of English, SUNY-Jefferson in Watertown, NY; Dr. Laura Tohe, Associate Professor of English, Arizona State University, Tempe; Candessa Teehee, ABD, Director, Cherokee Heritage Center, Tahlequah; and Dr. Brenda Child, Associate Professor of American Indian Studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, MN.

Other featured guests include Stephen Judd, independent

filmmaker who will present at the 2014 American Indian Symposium Film Series; a panel discussion presented by the Southeastern Artists Association, moderated by Roy Boney; a Muscogee Language Student Forum led by Mahaya Norma Marshall of the College of the Muscogee Nation, Okmulgee; a Cherokee Language Student Forum led by Wyman Kirk, NSU; Field Methods in Ethnology Student Presentations led by Dr. Benjamin Kracht, NSU; and the Revitalizing Endangered Languages Conference, an inaugural event, led by Dr. Brad Montgomery-Anderson, NSU.

This is an event designed for a diverse public audience and will include both scholarly and general interest programs.

Traditional art and institutional vendors will be available daily, Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Friday evening from 6 – 10 p.m. and Saturday from 1 – 11 p.m. Vendors are invited to register at the Center for Tribal Studies.

All vendors and symposium activities will take place in the University Center until 4 p.m. on Friday, April 11, at which point the activities will move two blocks north to the new NSU Event Center for the NSU

Powwow.

The 2014 NSU Powwow is April 11 -12 and, for the first time, will be held in the new Event Center. Admission is free and everyone to enjoy the festivities. It will include prizes for the winners in each dance category. There are categories for men and categories for women. Men’s dance categories typically include: Fancy, Grass, Traditional and Straight. Women’s dance categories typically include: Fancy Shawl, Jingle Dress, Buckskin and Cloth. Some categories might be combined.

Friday, April 11 from 6 – 10 p.m., there will be Gourd Dancing at 6 p.m. and at 8 p.m. is the Grand Entry Contests.

Saturday, April 12 from 2 p.m. – Midnight, there will be Gourd Dancing at 2 p.m., supper at 5 p.m. and the Grand Entry Contests at 7 p.m.

If you would like to sponsor a dance category, please contact the Center for Tribal Studies at 918-444-4350 or email tribalstudies@nsuok.edu or for agenda information visit www.nsuok.edu/symposium.

All events are free of charge and open to the public.

Pawnee Nation College hosting symposium on the history of the Pawnee Scouts

PAWNEE NATION COLLEGE
Media Release

PAWNEE, Okla. – The Pawnee Nation College co-host Dr. Martinus Van de Logt, PhD History, Oklahoma State University, who will present more information about his book of the Pawnee Scouts book, WAR PARTY in BLUE, on Saturday, April 5, at the Roam Chief Event Center in Pawnee.

Dr. Van de Logt will also be signing books for attendees after the panel discussion. The Raaripákusu’ were a legendary group of Pawnee who served their nation in a military alliance with the United States. Although the US Army called them scouts, their work went far beyond ordinary scouting duties. These men played key roles in several important military campaigns on the Plains.

Mark van de Logt was born and raised in the Netherlands, Europe, but studied Native American history at Oklahoma State University. After earning his Ph.D. at OSU he worked as a research associate at the American Indian Studies research Institute, Indiana University, before accepting a teaching position at Benedictine College, Kansas. Since 2012, he has been teaching at Texas A&M University at Qatar in the Middle Eastern city of Doha. Dr. Van de Logt specializes in Pawnee and Arikara history and culture and published his book War Party in Blue: Pawnee Scouts in the U.S. Army with the University of Oklahoma Press in 2010.

In his talk, Dr. Van de Logt will discuss the history of the Pawnee scouts. His presentation will address several questions: Why did the Pawnees serve? What made them such effective and important allies of the United States Army? What was their relationship with Major Frank North and the other officers of the scout battalion? At the conclusion of his talk, Dr. Van de Logt will also give some tips on how to do research on the scouts.

Workforce Investment Act makes nearly \$58 million available for job training

Grant applications will be accepted until April 23

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the availability of approximately \$58 million in grant funding through the Workforce Investment Act Section 166 Indian and Native American Program. The purpose of the grants is to improve the academic, occupational and literacy skills of Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian adults and youth, making them more competitive in the workforce.

“Increasing access to job-driven education and training opportunities will help more Indians and Native Americans find their path to the middle class,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez.

Approximately 170 grants will be awarded, with approximately \$46 million designated for assistance

to unemployed and low-income Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian adults, and \$12 million designated for Native American youth living on or near Indian reservations. Grantees will provide participants with work experience, summer jobs and support services to help individuals gain the skill sets required for jobs in their community.

The types of entities that are potentially eligible to apply for WIA Section 166 funds under this solicitation are:

Federally-recognized Indian Tribes;

Tribal organizations as defined in 25 U.S.C. §450b;

Alaskan Native-controlled organizations representing regional or village areas, as defined in the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;

Native Hawaiian-controlled entities;

Native American-

controlled organizations serving Indians; or

State-recognized tribal organizations serving individuals eligible to participate under Section 401 of the Job Training Partnership Act.

Congress has directed that the Indian and Native American Program be administered consistent with the principles of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. To that end, the department administers Indian and Native American programs to maximize the federal commitment to support the growth and development of Native American people and communities as determined by representatives of such communities.

Any organization that meets the requirements of the solicitation may apply. The Solicitation for Grant Applications, which includes information about how to apply, is available at <http://www.grants.gov>.

LOCUST

Continued from Page 1

Brancheau, Jason Hill, Bryce Ketcher, Kevin Ketcher, Ralph Ketcher, John Smith and Brett Terrapin. Flowergirls were Macy Goodwin, Tara Comingdeer, Cori Butcher and Nekesha Dirteater.

Charles Dewayne Locust was born on Sept. 30, 1956, in Tahlequah, the son of Nan Locust. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in social sciences from Northeastern State University.

He married Brenda Lee Hooper on March 20, 1992, in Fayetteville, Ark. They had one daughter, Rozlyn.

He served as UKB assistant chief since 2005 and devoted 20 years in three tribal governments. He served as tribal executive director, tribal administrator, executive director of Housing Authority, director of Social Services, financial analyst, budget analyst, president of the Gaming Division, general manager of the Gaming Division and executive director of the Gaming Commission.

He served multiple terms on the

Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, serving as liaison between the Oklahoma Tribal Population and governments and the Oklahoma State Government. He served two terms as vice president alternate for the Eastern Region of Oklahoma and the National Congress of American Indians. He was also a member of the Keetoowah Nighthawk Society and Ceremonial Grounds.

He enjoyed fishing or watching the Oklahoma City Thunder or University of Oklahoma sports.

Locust died on March 22 in Stilwell with his family close to his side. He was 57.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Nan Locust; and his grandparents, Abraham and Mary Locust.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda of the home in Stilwell; daughter, Rozlyn Locust and companion Braxton Redeagle of Stilwell; brother and sisters, Wayne Terrapin of Muskogee, Jennie Tillery and husband Bill of Grove, and Marie Brancheau of Claremore; grandson Bronson Redeagle of Stilwell; as well as many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousin and a host of friends.

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UKB celebrates the 82nd Birthday of former Chief John Hair with special event

By MARILYN CRAIG
UKB Media Release

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. –The John Hair Cultural Center and Museum will host a Storytelling event and reception to celebrate former Chief John Hair's 82nd birthday. The event will be held Saturday, April 5, 2014, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. at the UKB Wellness Center located at the United Keetoowah Band Tribal Complex. Storytelling will be presented by the Turtle Island Liar's Club.

"We are looking forward to a fun time with the Turtle Island Liar's Club and visiting with family, old friends, new friends, and the public at the reception. Everyone is welcome—family, friends, UKB members and the public to celebrate," said Ernestine Berry, Museum Director.

The Cultural Center and Museum is

named in honor of former Councilman and Chief, John Hair, who served the Tribe for twenty-two years, eight of which he served as chief (1983-1991). When Chief Hair served, neither the Council nor the Chief were paid for their services. Chief Hair worked in the Avionics Department of American Airlines in Tulsa and spent much of his own earnings to support the activities of the Tribe and sustain the Keetoowah Government. During Chief Hair's tenure, his focus was on economic development for the tribe. He advanced the tribe economically with the initiation of a bingo hall and smoke shops. Chief Hair's devotion to and focus on the advancement of the Keetoowah People never wavered. His influence and compassion for the wellbeing of his people is acknowledged and appreciated at the Cultural Center and Museum that bears his name.

The John Hair Cultural Center & Museum opened in October 2011 with a mission to promote awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the history, culture, and traditions of the Keetoowah Cherokee people from the earliest times to the present through exhibits, educational and cultural classes, archival collections, and special events.

The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. General Admission is \$3; Seniors and Youth \$2; and, children age 11-6 is \$1. Children 5 years and under are free. UKB members also receive free admission with their tribal enrollment card. For more information about the Keetoowah Cherokee Culture Center & Museum or the Storytelling event, call 918-772-4389 or visit us at www.ukb-nsn.gov.

Tulsa Shock hosting draft party at Osage Casino April 11

TULSA, Okla. – The Tulsa Shock will host their 2014 WNBA Draft watch party at the Osage Events Center, located at 951 West 36th St. N. in Tulsa. The event is open to the general public, but an RSVP is required. Fans must submit their RSVP by Friday, April 11. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and the draft will begin at 7:00 p.m. CT. The first round of the draft will be broadcasted live on ESPN2. The second and third rounds will be broadcasted live on ESPNU.

There will be giveaways, entertainment and each person will receive \$10 Free Play to Tulsa Osage Casino. Following the Shock's number two selection, the player will be doing a live look-in and will be answering questions from fans attending the draft party at Osage.

Must be 18 and over to attend.
RSVP to attend here:
<http://www.formstack.com/forms/?1424974-mfUELSeJsp>

Former Otoe-Missouria Princesses form sorority

By HEATHER PAYNE
Otoe-Missouria Tribe Media Release

RED ROCK, Okla. – The first Otoe-Missouria Princess was crowned in 1949, since that time there have been 75 young women who have represented the tribe with some of them sharing the title in the same year. Now those ladies have formed a princess sorority to recognize the service of former princesses and to mentor future princesses.

Sorority President Verona Deer, who was princess in 1992, says she and the other former princesses had a specific objective in mind when they formed the sorority.

"I believe the original goal was to recognize the need for fellowship with former princesses," Deer says. "Often times, we serve our year as Tribal Princess and then we go on to college, motherhood and join the workforce. Our year of being a representative for the Tribe just

becomes a trivial part of our past."

Andrea Kihega Mann, vice president and 2003 tribal princess, succinctly explains her reasons for working to establish the organization.

"To form a bond between former Otoe Princesses and to help in the Otoe community, work together to help preserve our Otoe culture, and to support the current Otoe Tribal Princess," Mann says.

Deer also explains that one of the goals of the sorority is to encourage future young women to seek the title of Otoe-Missouria Tribal Princess.

"We wanted to recognize that so few are chosen and we also need to encourage the younger generations to seek this position," Deer says. "We can carry on a legacy that seems to be dissipating. So few young ladies are eligible for this role and something needed to be done—something to recognize those who are interested and encourage them to seek the role of Tribal Princess."

In addition to Deer serving as president and Mann as vice president of the sorority, Carolee Bible Pratt was elected as secretary. The position of treasurer is vacant. Officers are elected in January. Dues are \$120 a year or \$10 a month. There are nearly 20 members of the sorority in good standing.

"We would like to thank Mary Beth Glasco, daughter of Albert 'Boxie' Phoenix and the late Joan Grant Phoenix, for her donation to the Otoe-Missouria Princess Sorority," Deer says. "She donated material to make the princess shawls. She wasn't a princess but will be serving as Head Lady Dancer this coming Encampment and we are grateful for her gift."

The sorority's goal of mentoring future princesses will also come to fruition this year, as they have been asked by the 2014-2015 Encampment Committee to organization a contest and select the 2014-2015 Otoe-Missouria Tribal Princess.

"The Encampment Committee Chairman and some members-- Jade Roubedeaux, Alde Robedeaux, and Gary Whitecloud, Jr.--came to me and asked if the Princess Sorority would be interested in selecting the new princess," Deer says. "The active members (of the sorority) voted to accept this opportunity and I let the Encampment Committee know that we would be happy to assume this responsibility. Jade explained that the Encampment Committee voted to offer the princess selection to the Otoe-Missouria Princess Sorority."

The princess contest will be held at the April benefit dance on Sunday, April 27 at the Otoe-Missouria Cultural Building in Red Rock, OK. The deadline for candidate applications is April 1. Eligibility information and applications are available on the tribe's website at www.omtribe.org.

In addition to selecting the next tribal princess, the sorority has

other plans as well for the coming year.

"We will also be working on continuing the Princess luncheon that was started by the last Otoe Encampment Committee," Mann says. "I would like to invite all former Otoe princesses to join the sorority and take part in our monthly meetings. You can attend the meetings in person, via telephone, and the internet. I would also like to encourage Otoe young ladies to think about applying to be the next Otoe Tribal Princess."

Deer echoes that sentiment.

"We would like to invite all former Tribal Princesses to join our organization," Deer says. "We thank the Creator for giving us the opportunities before us and look forward to the future development of this organization."

For more information about the Otoe-Missouria Princess Sorority, contact Verona Deer at 580-723-4466 ext 123 or otoeprincesssorority@gmail.com.

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The U.S. Attorney's Office is seeking to fill one Secretary vacancy to assist administrative functions and provide receptionist support. Beginning salary is \$35,256 annually. See vacancy announcement 14-OKW-1079624-DE at www.usajobs.gov for specific information. Applications must be submitted on-line or by fax. See "How to Apply" section of announcement for specific information. Questions may be directed to Lisa Engelke, Administrative Officer, (405) 553-8777. Open application period is April 1, 2014 through April 7, 2014.

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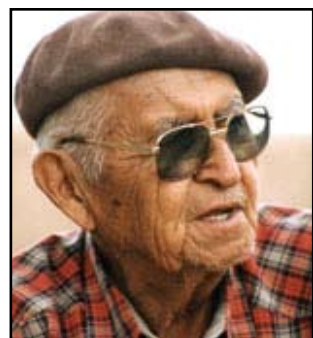
State Capitol providing museum quality audio tour for Allan Houser exhibit

■ A member of the Chiricahua Apache tribe, Oklahoma-born Houser is considered one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Arts Council and OETA have teamed up to provide visitors to the Oklahoma state Capitol an interactive educational experience based on the special sculpture exhibit on display on the Capitol grounds titled “Allan Houser at the Capitol: A Legacy in Bronze.” A museum-quality cell phone audio tour of the exhibit is now available and is the first of its kind at the Capitol. The Oklahoma Arts Council may introduce additional audio tours in the near future to accompany other works of art.

Using their cell phones, visitors can access the audio tour for free to learn about Allan Houser’s role as one of the 20th century’s most influential artists. From Houser’s birth in southwest Oklahoma as the first free member of the Chiricahua Apache tribe, to his years of studying art as a student in Santa Fe, to his rise to prominence and recognition of his groundbreaking approach to Native American art, the audio tour covers the entire spectrum of Houser’s life. The audio tour was produced by OETA and voiced by Dick Pryor, host of

the Oklahoma News Report. The audio tour consists of six segments, one for each of the five temporary sculptures



Allan Houser

COURTESY

and one for Houser’s permanent sculpture, “As Long As the Waters Flow,” which has greeted visitors at the Capitol’s south plaza since 1989. Each segment is approximately two minutes in length.

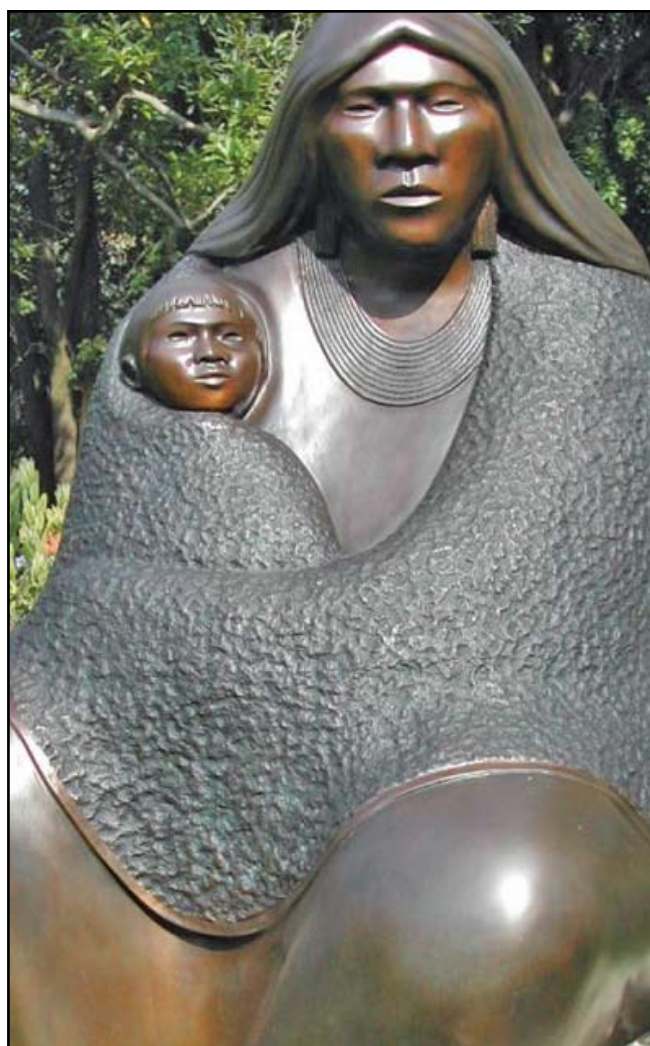
Oklahoma Arts Council Executive Director Amber Sharples said she is thrilled to introduce the audio tour technology for the thousands of Oklahoma residents, students and out-of-town guests who will visit the state Capitol during 2014.

“With hundreds of priceless works of art on display, the Capitol is effectively an art museum, and museums often provide audio tours to enrich their guests’ experience. Working with our partners at OETA, we are thrilled to introduce this technology to provide an immersive educational opportunity. At their fingertips, visitors can now have a deeper understanding of the history of our state, the story of Native Americans in

Oklahoma, and the role of one of our most celebrated artists, Allan Houser.”

Dan Schiedel, OETA Executive Director, said,

Five large-scale sculptures were installed on the grounds of the Oklahoma state Capitol in January as part of a year-long statewide celebration



COURTESY

“Singing Heart” is located at the east entrance of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

“OETA is proud to partner with the Oklahoma Arts Council in sharing the renowned work of Allan Houser at our State Capitol. It’s an opportunity to demonstrate the vital role the arts play in educating people about Oklahoma history and culture.”

of renowned Oklahoma artist Allan Houser. The five sculptures comprise a special exhibit titled “Allan Houser at the Capitol: A Legacy in Bronze.” The Capitol is one of 12 locations throughout Oklahoma that are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Houser’s birth

during 2014.

The five temporary Allan Houser sculptures on display at the Capitol include:

“Singing Heart” 56”H x 32”W x 36”D (east entrance)

“Morning Prayer” 107”H x 44”W x 39”D (east entrance)

“Spirit of the Wind” 126”H x 96”W x 72”D (north plaza)

“Warm Springs Apache Man” 49”H x 42”W x 42”D (west entrance)

“Hunter’s Vision” 52”H x 75”W x 28”D (west entrance)

Houser’s sculptures are on display on the Capitol grounds through December 15, 2014. Managed by the Oklahoma Arts Council, the special exhibition and audio tour are made possible through generous donations by Friends of the Capitol and The Kerr Foundation, Inc., with installation made possible by Manhattan Construction Company.

To go along with the exhibit, the Oklahoma Arts Council has created educational materials based on the five sculptures that are available online through the Council’s “Teaching with Capitol Art” curriculum. The curriculum offers resources for teachers, parents, students and others interested in teaching or learning about Oklahoma history and art through the artwork at the Capitol. “Teaching with Capitol Art” resources are available at arts.ok.gov.

In partnership with museums and cultural

institutions taking part in the statewide celebration, and made possible through generous support by the Fort Sill Apache Tribe, the Oklahoma Arts Council created additional educational resources based on the Houser centennial event for The Oklahoman’s “Newspapers in Education” February publication. The publication was provided to more than 30,000 students in 586 participating schools across the state.

Information about “Allan Houser at the Capitol: A Legacy in Bronze” is available at arts.ok.gov. Information about the statewide celebration of Allan Houser, including exhibitions, events and educational opportunities, is available at okhouser.org.

About Allan Houser

A member of the Chiricahua Apache tribe, Oklahoma-born Houser is considered one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. As a teacher, Houser passed along his approach of Native American art as a form of self-expression rather than a means of earning a living. Designated as an Oklahoma Cultural Ambassador in 1984, Houser died in 1994. His monumental sculpture “As Long As the Waters Flow” is a permanent fixture on the Capitol’s south plaza, where it has been standing since 1989. His piece “Dialogue” is part of the State Art Collection and is on display in the Betty Price Gallery on the Capitol’s first floor.

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For More Information Visit www.nativelearningcenter.com/6thannualsummerconference or call us at 954.985.2315

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EVENTS

***Email your powwow or other event info to:**
powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Class - through April 23, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 302, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, OKC

YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Chad Gilley (918) 382-2204 or nnyc@ihcr.org

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

***The American Indian Exposition Osage Director** is announcing the 2014 Osage Princess Applications are available for girls ages 16-24 interested in applying. The voting will be held at the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority Dance, the date & location has not been confirmed. In order to vote, your Osage CDIB card or Membership card is required. For applications, it is on the Osage Nation News website or contact Angela Satepauhoodle Toineeta #918.885.2976.

APRIL 4
NdN taco sale 11am-3pm,

at Indian Fellowship Baptist Church: 6130 S. 58th W. Ave, Oakhurst. \$7 for a taco and dessert. Info or for delivery, call Mary @ 918-636-8394.

APRIL 5
Chicotah Native Art Market, 9am-4pm at the Heartland Heritage Museum & Gallery, 116 N Broadway, Chicotah. Paintings, beadwork, textiles, leather crafts, cultural items, jewel, music, demonstrations, Native food concessions and more. Free to the public. For information call Frankie Blagg, 918-916-9015

Bacone College Benefit Dance at Old Warrior Gym, 2299 Old Bacone Road, Muskogee. Gourd Dancing starts at 3pm, War Dance at 6pm. More info contact Elsie Whitehorn | 918-360-3617 | whitehorne@bacone.edu

Native Voices in Recovery Benefit Dance at Custer County Fairgrounds, Clinton, Okla. Gourd Dance at 3pm.

Pawnee Scout Symposium at 8:30 am, location TBA. For information contact (918) 762-3363, ext. 11, or mburgess@pawneenationcollege.org

APRIL 12
Benefit Powwow for United Indian Methodist Church, Apache, Okla., at

the Comanche Community Center. Gourd Dancing at 2pm, Social and War Dancing starts at 7pm.

Memorial Service and Family Gathering for Paul Travis Rhodes at 12 pm, Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center 13839 South Casper North of intersection Highway 75 and 141st Meal will be served following service. Gourd Dance 2 - 4 pm Stomp Dance 4 – 5:30 pm Supper served 5:30 – 6:30 pm Gourd Dance 6:30 – 7:30 pm War Dance 8 – ? pm Contests for Men and Women 18 and older Crowning of White Buffalo Princess. Contacts: 918-606-1447 and 918-760-3039

APRIL 13
UCO Contest Powwow Hamilton Fieldhouse Edmond, Okla. Gourd dancing at 2 p.m., Grand Entry at 7 p.m.

APRIL 19
Sapulpa Public Schools NASA contest powwow at Sapulpa High School gym, 3 S. Mission Street, Sapulpa. Gourd dancing at 3, grand entry at 6:30

APRIL 25-27
United Cherokee 16th Annual Festival and Native American Powwow, 9:00AM 'til 5:00PM at 3550 Creek Path Road,

Guntersville, Alabama 35976 Contact: (256) 582-2333 or ucanonline@bellsouth.net

MAY 17
Old Fashioned Cherokee Picnic and Traditional Games at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah – gate opens at 10 am. Hogfry, games, children's activities and more. Information call Ollie Starr at 918-760-7499.

JUNE 6-8, 2014
Chilocco Indian School Class of 1964 50th Year Reunion - The Chilocco Indian School class of 1964 will be celebrating their 50th year reunion at the annual June 2014 Chilocco reunion. For contact and planning purposes, the 1964 Chilocco graduates are requested to contact Charley Johnson, Jr., P.O. Box 531, Bixby, OK 74008 - Telephone No. (918) 366-6158, e-mail address is johnson6158@olp.net or Lucian (Jake) Larney, 524 S. 2nd St., Okemah, OK 74859, telephone No. (405) 401-8881, e-mail jake74868@hotmail.com.

For more events, download a FREE copy of the 2014 Powwow Guide from www.nativeoklahoma.us or look for the link on www.nativetimes.com

NATIVE TIMES

VOLUME 20 • ISSUE 14

APRIL 7-13, 2014

Tribal leaders criticize land-buyback program

By **MATT VOLZ**
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – Tribal leaders from Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon and Washington state told a congressional panel Thursday that they feel shut out of decisions being made in a \$1.9 billion land-buyback program managed by the U.S. Department of Interior.

The buyback program is the largest part of the \$3.4 billion settlement in 2010 of a class-action lawsuit filed by Elouise Cobell of Browning, Mt., over mismanaged trust money held by the government for individual Indian landowners.

The buyback program aims to turn over to tribes fractionated land parcels across the nation that amassed multiple Indian owners over more than a century.

But the program, which must be completed in 10 years from the settlement, is progressing slowly despite tribal leaders eager to get started, five tribal leaders told a U.S. House panel.

The Interior Department is identifying parcels, entering into cooperative agreements to purchase the land and turning the parcels over to the tribes. The tribal leaders said they know the land and their people, so they want to be more involved in identifying parcels, approaching landowners and shaping cooperative agreements.

But government officials have been unresponsive, said Mark Azure, president of central Montana's Fort Belknap reservation.

"You pick up the phone, and it's a dead dial tone there," Azure said.

John Berrey, chairman of the Quapaw tribe in Oklahoma, said his tribe already has done all the preparatory work, identified willing sellers and submitted a proposed cooperative agreement, but the Quapaw has not yet been brought into the program.

"We think we can help the department with success if

See **BUYBACK** on Page 2

Oklahoma House panel OKs \$40M Indian museum plan

By **SEAN MURPHY**
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) – A plan to tap \$40 million from the state's Unclaimed Property Fund to pay for the completion of a Native American museum in Oklahoma City cleared another legislative hurdle on Monday, despite concerns that the project won't benefit taxpayers across the state.

A Republican-controlled House budget panel voted 8-2 to send the bill to the full House Appropriations and Budget Committee for a vote. The plan would use the \$40 million from the state to match another \$40 million in pledges from Oklahoma City, each of the state's 39 tribes, and corporate and individual donors.

The Senate has already passed the bill, but House Speaker Jeff Hickman reiterated last week that he wants 51 of the 72 House Republicans to support the plan before he will schedule it for a vote in the House. The chamber's 29 Democrats already have pledged to support the bill, but many House conservatives remain opposed to continued state funding of the project.

"How is this going to benefit all the parts of the state's economy?" asked

See **MUSEUM** on Page 4

Senate resolution support building Native memorial

By **MIKE COPPOCK**
Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) – The Alaska Senate Monday unanimously passed a resolution calling for the construction of the American Indian Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The memorial will honor American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian veterans who fought and died in U.S. wars since the American Revolution.

Senate Joint Resolution 19, sponsored by Sen. Bill Wielechowski, a Democrat from Anchorage, calls for supporting the American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative.

Wielechowski noted that of the 151,000 living Native American veterans, some 5,500 are Alaska Natives.

In 2011 Florida Seminole tribal member Stephen Bowers, a Vietnam combat veteran, launched a national effort to have the memorial constructed near the Vietnam Wall on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Bill for luring casino to southeast Kansas passes

By **JOHN HANNA**
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) – A proposal designed to bring a state-owned casino to southeast Kansas cleared the state Legislature on Wednesday and is going to Gov. Sam Brownback.

The House approved a bill that lowers the investment required from a prospective developer for a southeast Kansas casino from \$225 million to \$50 million by a vote of 84-36. The measure also decreases an extra fee charged by the state to a developer to \$5.5 million from \$25 million.

The Senate approved the

bill last week. Brownback has not said whether he'll sign it, but the bill's passage capped five years of work by southeast Kansas legislators.

"This will be a job-maker and bring more businesses in," said Rep. Michael Houser, a Columbus Republican whose district includes the most likely site for a new casino in the state's far southeast corner.

A 2007 law authorized one state-owned casino each in southeast Kansas and the Wichita, Dodge City and Kansas City areas. The Kansas Lottery owns

See **CASINO** on Page 6

A FADING POPULATION



KRISTI EATON | ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Monolingual Cherokee speaker Mack Vann, 83, holds the start of a handmade bow in the backyard of his Briggs, Okla., home on March 14, 2014. Vann is part of a dwindling population of Native Americans in Oklahoma who only speak their original traditional language. Tribal language departments are turning to fluent and monolingual speakers to help translate tribal words into English in efforts to preserve the languages.

Tribes draw knowledge from monolingual speakers

By **KRISTI EATON**
Associated Press

BRIGGS, Okla. (AP) – Mack Vann sits in the living room of his single-story home in rural Oklahoma with the television blaring, a news reporter giving details of the latest grisly crime to hit the state.

But the 83-year-old Vann doesn't understand most of what the reporter is saying. Vann, who speaks only Cherokee, instead focuses on the visitors to his home, many of whom know only a few simple words of Vann's Native American language.

"Osiyo," he says to his new visitors, the Cherokee word for hello.

Vann is part of a fading population of American Indians in Oklahoma who speak only their Native American language, no English. Though Oklahoma was once known as Indian Country and ranks second in the nation in the number of Native American residents, many of the tribal languages are endangered or vulnerable to falling out of use.

That's what makes Native Americans such as Vann, one of an estimated 50 Cherokee monolingual speakers in eastern Oklahoma, all the more interesting: They have somehow preserved their cultural identity through decades of pressure to assimilate, and now tribal language departments are turning to them to help keep their languages alive for future generations.

"They're living treasures," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker says, "and it's folks like him we bring in to pick their brains and say, 'OK, what

See **SPEAKERS** on Page 4



State senators working on bill to move reservation boundary

■ In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded a 1905 federal law opening over 1 million acres of the reservation to non-Indian settlement didn't extinguish its reservation status.

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) – Wyoming's two U.S. senators are working on legislation to prevent Riverton from being considered part of the Wind River Reservation after a federal agency ruled the city was on Indian land. The bill would declare that the city's 171,000 acres have never been part of the reservation shared by the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho and will remain



Sen. Mike Enzi

outside its borders, the Casper Star-Tribune reported Wednesday. The legal status of the land has been a point of contentious disagreement for many years between the tribes and state and local governments over taxation issues as well as criminal jurisdiction. In December, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded a 1905 federal

law opening over 1 million acres of the reservation to non-Indian settlement didn't extinguish its reservation status. The decision came in response to an application from the tribes to treat the reservation they share as a separate state for purposes of implementing the federal Clean Air Act. The bill by Sens. Mike Enzi and John Barrasso was drafted with the help of Gov. Matt Mead's office. It is being reviewed and has not yet been introduced, said Enzi spokesman Coy Knobel. "Sen. Enzi doesn't want to change the current boundaries," he said. "He wants to make sure they stay as they have been for decades." Mead has blasted the EPA decision, saying it's up to Congress to determine reservation

boundaries. Northern Arapaho Business Council member Al Addison said tribal members have asked Enzi and the rest of the Wyoming delegation to reconsider the bill. "We are prepared to deal with this," he said. "But tribal members at Wind River should not be misled. The people in leadership for Wyoming are not our friends." The Eastern Shoshone seem less worried about the bill. Tribal attorney general Kimberley Varilek said such legislation can avoid costly litigation. "I think once the tribe has the chance to review the proposed bill they will certainly reach out to the congressional delegation and engage with the senators and the state of Wyoming in regards to the impacts across the board," Varilek said.



The new Cherokee Nation Veterans Center

COURTESY PHOTO

Cherokee Nation opens new center for veterans

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) – The Cherokee Nation has opened a \$2 million center in Tahlequah for military veterans. The 8,700-square-foot Cherokee Nation Veterans Center has a community

room, library, kitchen and sunroom. It was funded by the Cherokee Nation and is open Monday through Friday for military veterans to visit or seek guidance from the tribe's office of Veteran Affairs.

Center manager Ricky Robinson says a lot of veterans just want to talk, often about their experiences. Robinson says they can do that at the center, but that it can also help them get help from a

licensed counselor in the tribe or through Veterans Affairs. The Cherokee Nation estimates there are more than 4,000 Cherokee veterans.

BUYBACK

Continued from Page 1

they would just come to the table and meet with me," he said. Lawrence Roberts, the deputy assistant secretary for Indian affairs in the Interior Department, said the agency is looking to streamline the process after hearing complaints of it being burdensome and complex. The buyback program so far has sent purchase offers to about 18,000 Indian landowners on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Roberts said. The equivalent of about 40,000 acres has been returned to tribes in the past four months, he said. Land fractionation was caused by the 1887 Dawes Act, which split tribal lands into individual allotments of 80- to 160-acre parcels, in most cases. Those allotments were inherited by multiple heirs with each passing generation, leaving tens of



John Berrey

thousands of parcels with hundreds or even thousands of owners. Using or leasing those tracts requires approval of all the owners, so often they sit without being developed. Also testifying before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs were Michael Finley of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Gary Burke of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Grant Stafne of the Fort Peck Reservation.

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Lawmakers place council speaker on leave

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Navajo Nation lawmakers voted Friday to place their legislative leader on indefinite paid administrative leave rather than oust him, months after he was charged with bribery and conspiracy.

Prosecutors allege that Johnny Naize and other tribal officials engaged in a scheme to divert tribal funds to their families. Naize has denied wrongdoing.

Lawmakers met in a special session in Window Rock to consider legislation sponsored by Alton Joe Shepherd to remove Naize from the post he's held since 2011. The amendments to Shepherd's measure came as a compromise, some lawmakers said, because Naize's criminal case hasn't wrapped up in tribal court.

Under the revisions brought forth after the executive session, Naize will continue to draw the

speaker's \$55,000 annual salary and retain his position as a lawmaker on the Navajo Nation Council, but he will not oversee council sessions or legislative staff.

"We, again, want to see a different direction and this is one way to start," Shepherd said following the vote.

Naize questioned the legality of the council's action and said he would challenge it in tribal court.

Nothing in Navajo law speaks specifically to placing the speaker of the council on administrative leave, nor does it specify a vote requirement, attorneys for the legislative branch and the tribe's Department of Justice said. But Navajo law gives broad discretion to lawmakers to discipline council members, the attorneys said.

Removing a speaker from office requires a two-thirds vote of the 24-member council, or 16 votes. Lawmakers sought the advice of attorneys on what was required for



Johnny Naize

administrative leave and passed the legislation by a simple majority vote, 12-0. Staunch supporters of Naize left the council chambers without voting.

Naize said the action, if allowed to stand, "would make a mockery of our laws and legal process."

"I am confident the courts will protect our nation's institutions and laws from what amounts to an illegal overthrow of our government," he said.

An attempt earlier this year to unseat Naize as speaker failed to get enough votes to pass. Shepherd said

his intent was to preserve the integrity of the speaker's post and the image of the Tribal Council.

He said he didn't exactly foresee a challenge, but "with anything, we have to take it as it is."

Naize's second, two-year term as speaker was set to expire in January. He has said he will not seek re-election to the Tribal Council after serving four terms.

The lawmakers chose LoRenzo Bates, head of the council's Budget and Finance Committee, as speaker pro-tem.

Prosecutors allege that Naize and several other current and former council delegates conspired to divert roughly \$74,000 from a now-defunct discretionary fund to their families. The money was intended to assist elderly Navajos, people facing extreme hardship and students seeking financial aid. Criminal complaints allege that Naize's family received about \$37,000 in exchange for his providing

a nearly identical amount to members of other families in the years before he was elected speaker.

Some of the roughly 30 people who faced criminal charges or ethics violations in the investigation have settled their cases while others await trial. Some have pleaded guilty and agreed to aid prosecutors.

Shepherd renewed his legislative effort to remove Naize from the speaker's post after former lawmaker Raymond Joe pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery and named Naize as a co-conspirator.

Naize suggested that prosecutors took advantage of Joe, who was not represented by an attorney in the case.

The council has not taken action against any of its members since the late 1980s when it ousted former Chairman Peter MacDonald because of a corruption scandal. The tribe later established a three-branch government.

NATIVE American TIMES



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News from the crossroads of Indian Country

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Native people, places & entertainment

Suspect denies guilt in reservation murder case

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — One of two suspects in the killing of a single mother on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges of murder and aggravated sexual abuse.

Clad in white prison garb and shackles, Garrett Sidney Wadda entered his plea at a hearing attended by dozens of relatives of victim Hanna Harris, 21, who disappeared on July 4. Her body was found four days later southwest of Lame Deer.

Several relatives of Harris broke into sobs as Wadda entered the courtroom flanked by U.S. marshals.

"I just hate him, knowing that he's guilty," Theda Foote, the victim's grandmother, said outside court. "It isn't closure yet, but at least we're one step closer to closure."

Authorities have been tight-lipped about the

circumstances surrounding the death of Harris, and an indictment filed in the case offered few details.

The charge of aggravated sexual abuse indicates that authorities believe Wadda forced the victim to engage in a sexual act.

Co-defendant Eugenia Ann Rowland was arrested and detained last week in South Dakota. She faces a count of second-degree murder. Both defendants face potential life sentences if convicted.

Family members of Harris said Wadda and Rowland were the last two people seen with her before she disappeared. The suspects were seen packing a pickup truck with their belongings and leaving town while the search for the Harris was underway, said Kateri Foote, an aunt of Harris.

It was unclear how Harris came into contact

with the suspects. Theda Foote and other family members said they did not know each other.

At the hearing, U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Carolyn Ostby appointed public defender Steve Babcock to represent Wadda.

About a month after Harris' body was found, frustration with the pace of the investigation prompted a rally and march in Lame Deer attended by about 200 people.

The victim's mother, Melinda Harris Limberhand, demanded justice for victims of unsolved murders on reservations across the U.S.

Even in the wake of last week's arrests, relatives of Harris expressed lingering disappointment with how the case was handled.

"For this it took months," said Merlin Sioux, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council and a distant uncle of the victim.

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Osage filing period closes, voters have 21 candidates

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

PAWHUSKA, Okla. – With more than 20 people coming forward, the filing period for potential members of the fourth Osage Nation Congress closed March 31. Pending certification by the Osage Nation Election Board, 21 candidates have submitted paperwork to run for the six seats on the June 2 general election ballot. Listed in chronological order by when they filed for office, the candidates include: Alice Buffalohead, Dr. Ron Shaw, Otto Hamilton, Michael Kidder, Tony Whitehorn, Clair Wood, Doug Cowan, Troy Big Eagle II, Daniel Boone, Angela Pratt, William “Kugee” Supernaw, James Norris, Beverly Brownfield, Teresa Bates Rutherford, W. Jacque Jones, Justin Mays, John Star Bighorse, Rick Luttrell, John Free, Joe Connor and Cecilia Tallchief. Buffalohead, Boone, Supernaw and Free are members of the third Osage Nation Congress. March 31 was also the deadline for potential Osage Minerals Council candidates to pick up paperwork from the council’s election office to

run for one of the eight seats up for grabs this summer. Candidates must submit a petition by 4:30 p.m. Monday with at least 25 shareholder signatures on it in order to be included on the ballot. As of Friday, 14 candidates, including six incumbents, have submitted completed paperwork, including signed shareholder petitions. As per the tribe’s election code, there will not be a primary to narrow the field, with the top six finishers taking the oath of office on July 2. Absentee ballot requests for the general election are due May 5. Absentee ballot requests for the June 2 Osage Minerals Council election are due May 23. For more information or to request an absentee ballot, call the Minerals Council election office at 918-287-5288. Absentee ballot requests for Minerals Council elections must be renewed in writing each election cycle. A debate for Minerals Council candidates is scheduled for April 26 at the Wah-Zha-Zhe Cultural Center in Pawhuska. The Congressional candidates’ debate is the following weekend at the same location.

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

Rep. Charles Ortega, R-Altus, whose rural district is more than 130 miles from the museum site along the banks of the Oklahoma River at the intersection of interstates 35 and 40. Ortega and Rep. Dale Dewitt, R-Braman, opposed the bill. Preparations on the 210-acre museum site began nearly two decades ago, and more than \$95 million already has been spent on the project, which has been plagued with cost overruns and mismanagement. Rep. David Dank, R-Oklahoma City, who sponsors the bill in the House, said the project is more than just a museum and will tell a critical part of Oklahoma’s story to the rest of the world. “This is about us,” said Dank, who recalled the forced relocation of Indians from several tribes to modern-day Oklahoma during the Trail of Tears in the 1830s. “This is about our heritage. This is about what we are as a state.” --- *Online:* *Senate Bill 1651: <http://bit.ly/1nLIOZc>*

Federal judge denies restraining order in Caddo dispute, hearing scheduled to continue April 30

ANADARKO, Okla. – A federal judge denied a claimant tribal leader’s request for an emergency restraining order against a BIA court Tuesday. Citing the statutory limitations of the lower court, Brenda Edwards, one of two claimant chairmen of the Caddo Nation, filed for a emergency temporary restraining order last month with the Western District of Oklahoma against the Court of Indian Offenses at the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Anadarko agency. Re-elected as chairwoman last summer, Edwards was subject to a recall petition within weeks of taking office. Since then, the tribe has had two factions claiming to be its legitimate authority. One administration, currently led by Anthony Cotter, is working out of the Caddo Nation complex. The other, led by Edwards, is off-site. As per federal statute, the Court of Indian Offenses cannot adjudicate election disputes, take jurisdiction over lawsuits involving the tribe or referee internal government disputes unless the tribe grants the court the authority to do so. The two governments have passed conflicting resolutions concerning the Court of Indian Affairs’ relationship with the

Caddo Nation’s affairs. The Cotter administration has granted the court jurisdiction while the Edwards administration has filed paperwork to have the tribe removed from the court’s oversight. Meanwhile, the Court of Indian Offenses is considering evidence to potentially issue a permanent injunction that would bar Edwards from conducting business on the tribe’s behalf. Judge Phil Lujan handed down a temporary injunction last month that, among other things, prohibits the claimant chairwoman from spending any tribal funds or grants. Noting the restrictions on the BIA court in his April 1 order, District Judge Timothy DeGuisti pointed out that the Edwards administration is actively participating in the Court of Indian Offenses’ proceedings. “Plaintiffs continue to raise the jurisdictional challenge in the CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) proceedings and have the opportunity to obtain relief in that forum,” he wrote. “Plaintiffs also have the ability to seek to stay enforcement on injunctive relief ordered in the CFR proceedings. Thus, Plaintiffs are not without relief. “At this early stage in these proceedings, Plaintiffs have failed to

meet their burden of demonstrating that the requirements for issuance of a temporary restraining order...are met.” With Edwards lacking access to the tribal complex for about six months, DeGuisti also noted that the court’s temporary injunction could not be the cause of immediate and irreparable harm to her authority and ability to act as the tribe’s chairwoman. After an evidentiary hearing Monday on the injunction application, the Court of Indian Offenses amended the temporary order to allow Edwards to sign paychecks for the approximately 55 employees on her administration’s payroll. The hearing is scheduled to continue on April 30. The initial injunction request before the lower court stems from a March 10 Caddo Tribal Council meeting affiliated with the Cotter government. Twenty-one tribal citizens – one more than the constitutionally-required minimum for quorum -- signed off on bringing a case forward to the Court of Indian Affairs. Headquartered in Binger, the Caddo Nation has about 5,500 enrolled citizens.

Native Americans, others protest Indians’ logo

TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — As excited baseball fans, many of them wearing Cleveland’s smiling Chief Wahoo logo, headed into Progressive Field for Friday’s home opener, a smaller group stood by unable to share their enthusiasm. Holding hand-painted signs that read, “We Are Not Honored,” and “Our Children Are Not Mascots,” a contingent of Native Americans and some of their supporters demonstrated against the Indians’ use of their red-faced Wahoo logo. The protesters, who have been gathering outside the ballpark’s entrances on opening day for years to voice their displeasure about the team’s use of the long-standing logo, stayed behind barricades as Indians fans walked by for the game against the Minnesota Twins. Robert Roche, executive director of the American Indian Education Center, is adamant the team should abolish the logo permanently. “The issue is simple,” said the 66-year-old Roche, his hair braided

with white threads. “We are not mascots. I’m nobody’s mascot. My children are not mascots. It mocks us as a race of people. It mocks our religion.” Roche and other organizers believe the protest is gaining support because of the growing national debate over sports mascots. The Washington Redskins have received harsh criticism for their nickname, and several colleges and high schools have made changes to their logos, mascots and nicknames. “If you’re looking at the average opening day fan, actually I see a little bit of a difference,” said Sundance, a member of the Muscogee tribe, who has been protesting on opening day since 2008. “I see that there are a lot of people who have refrained from wearing Wahoo much more than in previous opening days, but I also see that there are a lot more people who have come out with the most bigoted Wahoo that they could find.” There wasn’t much exchange between the groups in the hours leading up to the first pitch. However, a few fans yelled out derogatory comments toward the protesters, who

either ignored them or disarmed them with compliments. The Indians have made Chief Wahoo less visible in recent years, even adding a “Block C” to their inventory of logos. Roche, though, said the team’s efforts to minimize Wahoo “are a facade.” Sundance finds more than the Indians’ logo offensive. “We want the logo gone. We want the team name changed,” he said. “You can’t do one without the other. There is this propaganda around Cleveland that somehow they are honoring us by having a team named the Indians and the Wahoo logo. So the tide is turning, the wind is changing. They feel that perhaps the Wahoo logo is not honoring us, but somehow the team name is and they haven’t listened to the message.” Roche feels the movement to abolish Wahoo has grown. “I do see a change, a slow change,” he said. “It’s progressively happening. The young people are more in tune to it, where a lot of these older people grew up with it and so did their parents. We have nothing against the game. I know it will change in time. I hope it changes before I die.”

SPEAKERS

Continued from Page 1

do you call the white oak tree? What do you call the other medicine trees? What’s the Cherokee word for them? What’s the old word for them?” And the more we can pick their brains and the more the translation department can put it down, the more we can put it in not only hardback but on the web or a platform (and) the closer we’re coming to not even losing words.” The Cherokee Nation has

been at the forefront of language preservation. In the last few years, the tribe’s language department has worked to get the language added to Microsoft Windows 8, Google Gmail, and Apple’s iPhone and iPad. Most recently, a dozen Cherokee speakers spent last year translating 150,000 modern English terms into Cherokee so people can use the language on Microsoft Office web apps including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote. To make all that happen, the tribe draws upon the knowledge of speakers such as Vann, a descendant of Andrew Ross, the brother of Cherokee Chief John Ross, who

led thousands of Cherokees to Indian Country during their forced removal from the southeastern United States. Vann, who grew up in Greasy, a predominantly Native American community in eastern Oklahoma, learned some English in school but dropped out after the fourth grade to help with the family farm and slowly lost the ability to speak it. Now, he says, he’s too old to learn it. Instead, friends and family help him translate when he needs help. Vann, whose wife died several years ago, worked at the Cherokee Heritage Center for years and continues to sell handmade bows.

Speaking through a translator in the backyard of his Briggs home, Vann, a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, says he would like more children to learn to speak Cherokee. He speaks with two young children on a regular basis in hopes of helping them learn the language. “Everybody is just changing their ways and not really concentrating on our culture,” he says. And as more tribal members like Vann age, it becomes increasingly important for tribes to preserve their vast cultural knowledge. In January, the Chickasaw Nation, another large Oklahoma tribe,

announced the passing of their last monolingual speaker, Emily Johnson Dickerson, 93. Dickerson, who died at her Ada home in late December, was among only about 70 fluent Chickasaw speakers. “Emily Dickerson was a treasured elder who held the Chickasaw language and ways of life close to her heart,” Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby said in a statement. “This is a sad day for all Chickasaw people because we have lost a cherished member of our Chickasaw family and an unequalled source of knowledge about our language and culture.”



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OETA launching Native themed programming in April

LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Times

OKLAHOMA CITY – For at least the month of April, OETA’s lineup is going Native.

Featuring segments from the Osage, Cherokee, Ponca and Choctaw Nations, as well as the Kiowa and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, “Native Oklahoma” is a 30-minute pilot program set to debut this month on Oklahoma’s largest public television network.

“I’m really excited,” Cheyenne and Arapaho TV Content Producer Darren Brown said. “Don’t think this has ever been done before. If it has, I’m not aware of it and I’ve been in TV for more than 30 years.”

The idea for the pilot stems in part from a change in leadership at the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority. When Dan Schiedel became the executive director of OETA in November 2012, the station’s administrators took a long look at the network’s programming line-up and hit the road on a listening tour, soliciting feedback

from OETA viewers across Oklahoma.

“We got lots and lots of feedback,” Schiedel said of the tour. “We heard lots of requests for more Native-focused content, including language, culture and history.”

That feedback eventually led to a summer 2013 meeting among representatives from OETA and several tribes’ communication departments about possibly utilizing footage already being produced for tribal communities on a larger scale and eventually, the pilot was born. The show’s title was eventually selected by an online poll and has no connection to the Native Times’ sister magazine of the same name.

Thanks to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ low-power public television station based near El Reno, Okla., CATV Director of Operations Randy Burleson and Brown took the lead on the program’s production front, including coordinating video submission and editing the finished product. With the participating tribes sending in stories with a wide array of topics and lengths, the pair’s production responsibilities included shooting brief introductory segments to help

tie it all together.

“There’s an audience out there for this kind of product,” Brown said. “Oklahomans say all the time that we’ve got a rich history, but it’s true. We’ve got so many different tribes and we barely scratched the surface with this. The people who watch OETA are looking for stuff like that – if you’re watching that versus say, ‘Two and a Half Men,’ you’re definitely in the right frame of mind.”

The show made its world premiere at the Native Media Summit Thursday night at Norman campus of the University of Oklahoma. The pilot episode is scheduled to air four times throughout the month of April, with the show’s future beyond that first episode still uncertain. Although there is interest at OETA in making the program a regular part of the network’s schedule, there is the ever-present question of securing sufficient funding for the production side, as well as the challenge of engaging more of the state’s tribes to participate and contribute content.

“There are so many more tribes in Oklahoma,” Brown said. “If there are another

six or seven interested, that’s another 30 minute show right there. I know they don’t all have production departments, but if you can just get a fraction of those tribes involved, it could easily be a quarterly show. The fact that OETA is willing to give it air time and their general manager (Schiedel) is willing to get on board is huge.”

“We are really interested in getting more of our tribes involved with OETA and try to bring about more of what they’re producing to the people of Oklahoma,” Schiedel said. “Look at our schedule – we don’t have that many American Indian stories or voices on our air. They represent such a great, strong people in the state of Oklahoma that we should be hearing more about them.”

– As of press time, the pilot for “Native Oklahoma” is scheduled to air four times in April. Those times are:

- April 10 at 7 p.m.
- April 15 at 9:30 p.m.
- April 24 at 7 p.m.
- April 27 at 11:30 p.m.

COMMENTARY ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

Cherokee culture and community meetings near you

Cherokee Chat
By CARA COWAN WATTS

Cherokee Nation citizens throughout the 14-counties and outside of the Tribe often have a local community group who meets monthly offering Cherokee culture, community, language and government.

In Rogers and Tulsa Counties, we have the Tulsa Cherokee Community Organization (TCCO), Victory Cherokee Organization (VCO) and Rogers County Cherokee Association (RCCA) who meet monthly.

TCCO meets, monthly, on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church, 1901 North College. Enjoy brief, monthly,

historical presentations by noted Tribal Elder and Historian, Marybelle Chase. Social time begins at 6pm. At Large Councilmembers Jack Baker and Julia Coates are members and may attend meetings. Chairperson, George Hoos, may be reached at P.O. Box 582363, Tulsa, OK 74158-2353, tulsacherokees@gmail.com or on Facebook.

VCO of Collinsville meets, monthly, on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. For BINGO fundraising nights on Thursdays following their monthly meeting, contact VCO. VCO meets in their own community building with surrounding land for stickball, picnics, Hog Fry events and a historical Cherokee cemetery maintained by VCO volunteers. VCO is located at 1025 North 12th in Collinsville on

the Northwest side of town past the new Collinsville Food Distribution site. Chairperson, Keith Holland, may be reached at P.O. Box 298, Collinsville, OK 74021, victory-cherokee@att.net, http://victory-cherokee.org or on Facebook.

RCCA in Tiawah, typically, meets the second Sunday of each month at 2pm. RCCA meets in their own community building with surrounding land for stickball, picnics, Hog Fry events and Cherokee marbles. Map the building online at the RCCA website or map address 15488 East 523 Road, Claremore, OK to the historical Cherokee community of Tiawah, USA between Claremore and Inola. To contact President, Bob McCuis-tian, write P.O. Box 142, Claremore, OK 74018, call Vice-President,

Beverly Cowan, at (918) 760-1735 or email beverlycowan@sbcglobal.net. For more about RCCA, go to http://rogerscountycherokees.org/ or visit Facebook.

RCCA will meet on Sunday, April 13, 2014, for a Clean-Up Day at Building where college students may earn community service hours for their Tribal scholarships. On May 4, 2014 which is early due to Mother’s Day, RCCA is hosting a hands-on Cherokee double-walled basket class for members. Saturday, June 7, 2014, will be the Annual Hog Fry to honor graduating Seniors from local High Schools and RSU plus the RCCA RSU Scholarship Recipient. On Sunday, July 13, 2014, RCCA will host a Watermelon Bust and Family Potluck Picnic, Stickball, Marbles and Cornhusk

Dolls. On Sunday, August 10, 2014, Gourd Painting with David Scott which requires an RSVP. On Sunday, October 12, 2014, nomination of officers and contemporary Cherokee History with former Chief Ross Swimmer. On Sunday, November 9, 2014, election of officers and Holiday Family Potluck, honor Veterans and annual Volunteer Awards. No September or December meeting.

At each of the three monthly meetings, Councilman Lee Keener and I provide a verbal legislative update and answer constituent questions or listen to concerns.

Cara Cowan Watts is an elected Tribal legislator within the Cherokee Nation for portions of Rogers and Tulsa Counties.

Native Times going online only, final print edition this week

LISA SNELL
Native Times Publisher

I’ve been putting this week off for awhile now. Business was bad for me last Fall and Winter. I’ve been forced to watch the bottom line with a sharper eye this year and each week I’ve found myself asking the Creator, “Is this the week it goes down?”

From week to week the difference between yes and no has been a single advertising order or the promise of a few orders in the weeks to come.

People often ask me, “How can you put this paper out for free week after week?”

The answer is “advertising” and not many businesses ad-

vertised last Fall and Winter. I had to skip two weeks in December because the ads I did have simply weren’t enough to cover the cost of printing, much less the cost of distributing the paper.

It helps that I don’t rent office space or have a support staff to pay. But the trade off has been too many week-ends holed up in my office instead of enjoying the time with my family. Something had to change.

You may have noticed the price of 50¢ on the front of your newspaper. I thought that if enough papers sold each week, it would cover the cost of printing and distribution. Brilliant idea in theory. It didn’t work out so

brilliantly.

As Kenny Rogers sings, “You gotta know when to fold ‘em.” It’s time to fold and change tables.

I’m sad to see it go. I prefer a newspaper to a computer screen. But I’ll keep the news coming – online at www.nativetimes.com. And I’ll still be around publishing Native Oklahoma Magazine each month and posting online at www.nativeoklahoma.us.

If you’re a subscriber, I hope you’ll enjoy Native Oklahoma Magazine in place of the Native Times. If not, please call me at 918-708-5838 so I can refund the balance of your subscription. I’m sorry for the inconvenience.

Enter for a chance to win a pair of

GEORGE STRAIT TICKETS

at Muscogee Creek Nation Travel Plazas

Okmulgee Travel Plaza Give-Away
Friday April 11th
10a.m.-12p.m.
with KOKL doing a live broadcast!

Muskogee Travel Plaza Give-Away
Saturday April 12th
3p.m.-5p.m.



Come see if you’re a winner and have some fun with our participating vendors Pepsi, Coke, Love Bottling, Frito-Lay, Monster, Budweiser, and One Fire Casino. They will be onsite doing some free taste testing and give-aways!

Enter for your chance to win a pair of George Strait tickets at either one of our Creek Nation Travel Plazas. No requirement is necessary to register.

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“Where every day is Indian Day”

Chickasaw Press opens alternative outlet

ADA – Ofi’ Tohbi’, the legendary white dog who protected the Chickasaw people while they searched for a homeland centuries ago, is back on the job with new orders to follow.

This time, he’s breaking trail for children on an educational excursion through Chickasaw Country, and posing as the symbol for the Chickasaw Nation’s new creative literary venture.

Chickasaw Journeys, an activities book aimed at youngsters, is hot off White Dog Press, a new imprint under Chickasaw Press.

Children and even parents will learn a thing or two from the book, said Chickasaw Press Director Wiley Barnes.

With winter showing signs of exhaustion, Chickasaw Journeys offers a guide for spring and summer exploration at four cultural destinations special to Chickasaw people, and takes children of all ages on an educational adventure through Chickasaw Country.

The book includes questions, mazes, word games and more activities, all based on Chickasaw history, language and culture, for kids to complete during trips to Chickasaw the Chickasaw Council House, the Chickasaw Historic Capitol, the Chickasaw White House and the Chickasaw Cultural Center, Barnes said. Ofi’ Tohbi’ can also be found at the destinations.

Each reader who completes the puzzles and tasks during visits to the four destinations will receive a commemorative oksop (bead) and a stamp to fill in blanks in the book. Each participant who completes his or her book will become an official member of the Ofi’ Tohbi’ Club, earning a commemorative patch

and a collector’s coin.

Chickasaw Journeys is available for purchase at:

Chickasaw Council House, 209 N. Fisher, Tishomingo, Okla.;

Chickasaw Historic Capitol, 411 W. Ninth St., Tishomingo, Okla.;

Chickasaw White House, 6379 E. Mansion Road, Milburn, Okla.;

perspective. It has published many such books and continues to do so.

Those books also won recognition and awards. Among them are the three-volume Chikasha Stories series, written by highly respected elder and traditional oral storyteller Glenda Galvan and illustrated by Jeannie Barbour; Ilimpachi’

the staff proposed the creation of White Dog Press.

“That way, we didn’t have to change the Chickasaw Press’s vision. We could start a new imprint for fiction, poetry and other genres,” he said.

White Dog Press, Barnes said, “opens doors of opportunity for writers. We get a lot of submissions and proposals that we didn’t have an outlet for in the past because they weren’t a fit for Chickasaw Press.”

The first book to appear under the White Dog Press imprint was Footsteps Still Whispering in the Wind, a collection of poems written by Chickasaw elder Margie Testerman and illustrated by 18 young Chickasaw artists. The book debuted last year.

This year, besides Chickasaw Journeys, Barnes said, Chickasaw Press senior staff writer Phillip Carroll Morgan has produced a can’t-put-it-down, page-turner of a historical fiction novel set 140 years before the first documented encounter between Chickasaws and Europeans. Morgan’s novel is scheduled for release in the fall.

Other adventures await Chickasaw Press, such as a new website complete with an online store.

In the past, book buyers either wrote the Press and requested books, or picked up copies where available. One also could go to the Press’s website, but when it came time to buy a book, patrons were redirected to the University of Oklahoma Press’s e-commerce site.

The Press also looks forward to April and May, the awards season for books. Chickasaw Press has earned 16 awards for the 25 books it has published, and has entered titles in several competitions this year.



Chickasaw Press, 1500 Hoppe Blvd, Suite 1, Ada Okla.;

Chickasaw Arts and Humanities, 201 N. Broadway, Ada, Okla; and

Chickasaw Cultural Center, 867 Charles Cooper Memorial Drive, Sulphur, Okla.

Chickasaw Journeys is the second publication by White Dog Press, which debuted in 2013 as an outlet for Chickasaw fiction, poetry and other creative works.

Barnes said the Chickasaw Press was started in 2006 to produce scholarly and academic works based on Chickasaw history and culture, written from a Chickasaw

(We’re Gonna Eat): A Chickasaw Cookbook, by JoAnn Ellis and Vicki Penner; a poetry book titled Picked Apart The Bones, by Rebecca Hatcher Travis; and two art books by renowned Chickasaw artist Mike Larsen and his wife, Martha: Proud to be Chickasaw and They Know Who They Are, featuring the stories of elders and early sketches and paintings of them by Larsen.

Still, Barnes and the staff of Chickasaw Press felt aware of the need for a distinct outlet for creative Chickasaw and Native literature. To address that, he and

CASINO

Continued from Page 1

the rights to the gambling but hires private developers to build and operate each casino, with the state claiming a share of the revenues.

Only one company initially showed an interest in a southeast Kansas casino: Penn National Gaming Inc., of Wyomissing, Pa. However, it walked away from its 2008 contract with the lottery, citing competition from a casino opened by the Quapaw Tribe of northeast Oklahoma. The casino sits so close to the state line that its parking lot is in Kansas.

The Great Recession also dampened interest in a casino, and local officials and legislators have said the investment and fee required by law are too high.

Meanwhile, state-owned casinos opened south of Wichita and in Dodge City and Kansas City, heightening the frustrations of southeast Kansas officials who for years were among the most vocal supporters of expanded legalized gambling.

But during Wednesday’s brief House debate on the bill, one southeast Kansas lawmaker, Rep. Virgil Peck, a conservative Tyro Republican, was skeptical that developers would be interested in competing against multiple tribal casinos in Oklahoma, even with the lower investment requirement. He also said a new casino would hurt local businesses and increase the number of people with gambling addictions.

“If we want to increase social costs in southeast Kansas, you should vote for this,” Peck said.

Information on pro-casino bill: <http://bit.ly/1mtVLcT>

Kansas Legislature: <http://www.kslegislature.org>

CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Business Office will begin accepting applications for Executive Assistant. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will serve as an assistant to the Kiowa Business Committee and KBC Chairman. The incumbent is responsible for a wide variety of special assignments, most of which involve confidential, sensitive an/or complex issues which can have an significant impact on the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Must possess an Associates Degree (A.A.) or equivalent from a two-year college or technical school; or six months to one year related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. **REQUIREMENTS:** Must possess a Valid Oklahoma drivers license. Must submit to and pass a OSBI background check and drug testing. **APPLY AT:** The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, OK 73015 or call for an application at (580)654-2300 extension 356/360. **CLOSING DATE:** April 18, 2014 C.O.B. EOE UP PL-93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Transportation Department will begin accepting applications for a Transportation Director. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The incumbent will be responsible for the overall administration of the Tribal Transportation Program grant and all applicable laws. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Preferred- Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering or closely related engineering field or Masters Degree in Civil Engineering or Registered Professional Engineer. Minimum- Bachelor’s Degree, three (3) years experience managing the design, construction, or maintenance of a transportation system. Two (2) years supervisory experience of at least five (5) full time employees. **REQUIREMENTS:** Must possess a valid Oklahoma Drivers License. Must submit to and pass an OSBI background check and Drug Testing. Salary range \$25.00 ph to \$38.00 ph. **APPLY AT:** The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Personnel Department, P.O. Box 369, Carnegie, OK 73015 or call for an application at 580-654-2300 extension 356/360. **CLOSING DATE:** May 5, 2014 C.O.B. EOE UP PL-93-638 INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES

FOR SALE

NATIONAL INDIAN GRANT DIRECTORY

Two volumes, over 820 pages. Descriptions of 550 foundations, corporations, religious organizations, and others who make grants to Indians. This is the fourth and final edition of this book, first published in 1983.

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The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, located South of Stillwater, is accepting applications for the following positions in the Perkins, OK area:

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SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

The U.S. Attorney’s Office is seeking to fill one Secretary vacancy to assist administrative functions and provide receptionist support. Beginning salary is \$35,256 annually. See vacancy announcement 14-OKW-1079624-DE at www.usajobs.gov for specific information. Applications must be submitted on-line or by fax. See “How to Apply” section of announcement for specific information. Questions may be directed to Lisa Engelke, Administrative Officer, (405) 553-8777. Open application period is April 1, 2014 through April 7, 2014.

MUSEUM AID

The U.S. Department of the Interior/Indian Arts and Crafts Board is announcing an exciting opportunity to serve as a Museum Aid at the Southern Plains Indian Museum in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Are you interested in the historical preservation of Native American artifacts in a museum setting? If so, this could be the job for you! If you are interested in applying for this position it will be open from March 31, 2014 through April 14, 2014. To apply, please visit <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/365194200>

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We are pleased to announce that a waiting list is being created for Linden Knolls Apartments, a five story building with 99 affordable apartments. These units are located at 261 South Franklin Street, Hempstead, NY 11550. Rents will range from \$1100 -\$1600 per month for one bedroom, two bedroom and three bedroom apartments. Unit rents are determined by annual income. The maximum annual income for a single person household will be \$44,160, a two member household is \$50,460, a three member household is \$56,760, a four member household is \$63,060, a five member household is \$68,160, and a six member household is \$73,200.

To be eligible for occupancy, all prospective tenant incomes must be verified and certified by onsite housing staff. For an application, please call (800) 240-6388 or visit www.lindenknolls.us. Submit your name, address, and telephone number. Your application will be mailed to you. Only one application per household may be submitted. No Brokers. **APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 25, 2014**
Darryl C. Towns, Commissioner/CEO,
New York State Homes and Community Renewal

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin. Federal law also prohibits discrimination on the basis of age. This apartment community does not discriminate on the basis of handicap/disability status. The management coordinates compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in HUD’s Regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR part 8 dated June 2, 1998)



Edmond Harjo holds his Congressional Gold Medal during a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington on November 20, 2013.

FILE PHOTO

Last living Seminole Code Talker walks on, loved ones pay respects, honor hero

DANA ATTOCKNIE
Native Times

SEMINOLE, Okla. – Everyone rises as the first note of a Seminole hymn fills the chapel. Soon after, an American flag is gently rolled back to the middle of the casket, so the top can be opened and a hero revealed.

Friends and family have gathered to pay respect and say their final goodbye to Edmond Andrew Harjo, 96, who died on March 31, at Mercy Hospital of Ada. Harjo was the last surviving Code Talker for the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. His funeral was held on April 4, at Swearingen Funeral Home Chapel in Seminole, and he was laid to rest at the Seminole Nation Veterans Memorial Cemetery, in Seminole.

Yellow, red, pink and purple sprays of flowers flanked each side of Harjo, and a video screen in the middle of the chapel allowed everyone in the filled pews to watch a portion of the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony that took place on Nov. 20, 2013 in Washington, D.C. The ceremony honored Code Talkers from 33 tribes. Harjo attended the ceremony and was recognized for his dedication and valor as a World War II Code Talker. He was the only living Code Talker to attend.

During the video, Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio) said Harjo and his brothers were at Normandy and Iwo Jima, and they mobilized the simplest weapon, which was language.

The video shown during his funeral also showcased Harjo sitting in front of a memorial water fountain in his wheelchair

and telling of the time he served in the Army as a private first class. He recalled some of his time in Germany and described what he saw and the villages he traveled through. The unit he served with was Battery “A” 195th Field Artillery Battalion. He received a Good Conduct Medal, and a European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign service Ribbon with one Silver Service Star for his service as a Code Talker. The Seminole Nation is the recipient of the gold medal for his service.

“Edmond Andrew and his brother were conversing in their first language with each other and they were overheard by their commander,” the Rev. Dr. Eugene Wilson, said during Harjo’s service. “The language was used as military code, not just to enable war but ... sustain peace.”

Rick Harjo said another solider caught Harjo’s attention when he overheard the soldier singing in their Native language. That encounter eventually led to their service as Code Talkers.

A picture of Harjo in front of the U.S. Capitol remained on the video screen throughout the service, while shared memories of him ignited smiles, shared laughter eased the heartache, and shared song provided comfort.

“He’d sit there and tickle that ivory ... It was beautiful, very beautiful,” Rick Harjo recalled. “I enjoyed listening to him play the piano and how he played Beethoven’s 5th Symphony.”

Harjo also played the piano in some gospel quartets and at the nutrition center in Maud. He studied composers Johann Sebastian

Bach and Pyotr Iiyich Tchaikovsky.

“Andrew said often that his first love was music and the piano,” Rick Harjo said.

Harjo was born on Nov. 24, 1917, on the original allotted land in Maud that belonged to his mother, the late Yanna (Grant) Harjo. His father is the late Tony Harjo.

Harjo graduated from Seminole High School and earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Oklahoma City University. He became a school teacher and taught at Maud Schools, at Justice Schools and at Pickett Center. He was also well versed on the Seminole Trail of Tears, and has been heard saying, “Speak your language, you may lose it.”

Not long before his uncle died, Rick Harjo said a language lesson was shared between them. They were exchanging what came to be some of their last words together when Harjo hushed his nephew from speaking by saying “Shhh.” Harjo and his nephew were speaking in their Native tongue when Rick began to translate their conversation to his family. Harjo said he didn’t want to hear the translation and reminded his nephew that when they speak their Native language to each other, its true intent is delivered. But, once words are translated the truth isn’t told; it’s contaminated and the strength in the words is lost.

Rick Harjo then shared the last moments he had with his uncle, and choked up when he recalled one of his uncle’s favorite songs, “The Little Church in the Wildwood.” That song was sung to Harjo for the last time during his service.

Dance of the Two Moons fundraiser helps children become tomorrow’s leaders

By EMILY BOLUSKY

TULSA, Okla. – The 2014 Dance of the Two Moons will take you back to the glitz and glamor of Vintage Hollywood. This year’s gala will be held Saturday, April 26, at the spectacular Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tulsa, located at 777 W. Cherokee St., Catoosa, OK.

The 2014 Dance of the Two Moons will feature an extraordinary dinner, silent auction and a live auction. We are also pleased to bring the musical talents of The Rebecca Ungerman Combo.

The live auction will feature a stunning original painting by the late Bill Rabbit, a case of Switzer Family Wine signed by Barry Switzer, a suite at Drillers Stadium, a seaplane tour for 2 of Grand Lake, dinner for 10 at Juniper, a private wine tasting for 12 at Parkhill South, jewelry and much more!

The Honorary Chairs of the 2014 Dance of the Two Moons are Jim and Sharon Ruley. Jim and Sharon Ruley are owners of their independent insurance firm. Their philosophy is giving back to the community and have been avid supporters of Indian Health Care Resource Center of Tulsa, Inc. and numerous other local agencies. Jim currently presides on the Tulsa Boys Home Board of Directors and both Jim and Sharon are actively involved with Emergency Infant Services, Life Senior Services, Meals on Wheels, Saint Francis Hospital, St. John’s Medical Center.

The monies raised by Dance of the Two Moons will fund a multi-faceted summer wellness camps that provides extraordinary experiences for more than 300 elementary and middle school youth each year. Youth learn healthy lifestyles as well as life, leadership, and team building skills through fun and exciting activities designed with them in mind. Field trips to Tribal Nations offer urban youth the opportunity to experience firsthand the traditions of their rich Native American culture. These leaders of the future depend on Indian Health Care Resource Center to provide opportunities that would otherwise not be available to them.

This year, Indian Health Care Resource Center is honored to recognize Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma as its inaugural “Circle of Life Community Partner.” This new recognition is awarded to individuals, foundations, and corporations who have continually and consistently been a part of the Center’s “Caring is Strong Medicine Team.” Members of the Circle of Life have given at the highest level and have been an integral partner in ensuring quality care for the almost 20,000 Indian people served each year by Indian Health Care Resource Center. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma is the first corporation to be a member of the Circle of Life. The company’s generous spirit and genuine concern for the Native community of Oklahoma are evident in its partnership with Indian Health Care Resource Center.

Tickets to the Dance of the Two Moons are \$125 each or \$225 per couple. Sponsorship levels are available ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000. For more information about the Dance of the Two Moons or to purchase a sponsorship or tickets, please contact Emily Bolusky at 918-382-1206 or email at twomoons@ihcrc.org.

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Second Chief
Roger Barnett

Scholarship Opportunites

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Scholarship Foundation Program is now accepting scholarship applications for the Fall 2014 semester.



Deadline is June 6, 2014.
Applications can be found at creeknationfoundation.org
For questions please call
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EVENTS

***Email your powwow or other event info to: powwow@nativetimes.com. Name, date, time, place and contact information is free.**

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Kiowa Class - through April 23, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Room 302, Oliphant Hall, Tulsa University (1 block north of stadium). Instructor: Leon Hawzipta, Jr. (918) 440-0337; e-mail: leonhawzipta@yahoo.com

THIRD THURSDAY
American Indian Chamber of Commerce Tulsa Chapter luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the Tulsa Country Club, 707 N Union. For reservation or more info email Traci Phillips, tphillips@naturalevolution.com

EVERY 1st FRIDAY: Indian Taco Sales – from 4:00 – 8:00 pm at Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S. W. 31st Street, Oklahoma City

EVERY 2nd SATURDAY
Indian Taco Sales - from 11-2:30pm at OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 5320 S. Youngs Blvd, Oklahoma City www.okchoctaws.org

EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: All you can Eat Breakfast SALE – from 8- to 11:00 am at

Angie Smith Memorial UMC, 400 S.W. 31st Street, OKC YOUTH COUNCIL
The Native Nations Youth Council (NNYC) bimonthly meetings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm @ the Youth Services of Tulsa Activity Center (311 S. Madison - on 3rd just west of Peoria). Call to confirm location. Info Call: Trenton Rabbit/918.382.2219

THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2014
Comanche National Museum and Cultural Center presents Comanche Code of Honor, a new exhibit honoring the heroic Comanche Code Talkers of World War II. For more information call 580-353-0404 or go to www.comanchemuseum.com.

***The American Indian Exposition Osage Director is announcing the 2014 Osage Princess Applications are available for girls ages 16-24 interested in applying. The voting will be held at the Osage Tribal Princess Sorority Dance, the date & location has not been confirmed. In order to vote, your Osage CDIB card or Membership card is required. For applications, it is on the Osage Nation**

News website or contact Angela Satepauhoodle Toineeta #918.885.2976.

APRIL 12
Benefit Powwow for United Indian Methodist Church, Apache, Okla., at the Comanche Community Center. Gourd Dancing at 2pm, Social and War Dancing starts at 7pm.

Memorial Service and Family Gathering for Paul Travis Rhodes at 12 pm, Glenpool Creek Indian Community Center 13839 South Casper North of intersection Highway 75 and 141st Meal will be served following service. Gourd Dance 2 - 4 pm Stomp Dance 4 – 5:30 pm Supper served 5:30 – 6:30 pm Gourd Dance 6:30 – 7:30 pm War Dance 8 – ? pm Contests for Men and Women 18 and older Crowning of White Buffalocalf Princess. Contacts: 918-606-1447 and 918-760-3039

APRIL 13
UCO Contest Powwow Hamilton Fieldhouse Edmond, Okla. Gourd dancing at 2 p.m., Grand Entry at 7 p.m.

APRIL 19
Sapulpa Public Schools NASA contest powwow at Sapulpa High School gym, 3 S. Mission Street, Sapulpa. Gourd dancing at 3, grand entry at 6:30

APRIL 19
80th Birthday Honor Dance for Dr. Henrietta Mann, SWOSU Wellness Center, Weatherford, Okla. Gourd Dancing begins at 2:30pm. Contest Powwow! More info call 580-774-3742.

APRIL 25-27
United Cherokee 16th Annual Festival and Native American Powwow, 9:00AM 'til 5:00PM at 3550 Creek Path Road, Gunterville, Alabama 35976 Contact: (256) 582-2333 or ucanonline@bellsouth.net

MAY 3
Restoring Harmony Powwow at Westside YMCA, 5400 S. Olympia, Tulsa. Dance contests, stickball games, awareness hike, Gourd Dancing. Grand Entry at 7pm. More info call 918-382-2217. Vendor info call 918-382-2219.

MAY 17
Old Fashioned Cherokee Picnic and Traditional

Games at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch in Oologah – gate opens at 10 am. Hogfry, games, children's activities and more. Information call Ollie Starr at 918-760-7499.

JUNE 6-8, 2014
Chilocco Indian School Class of 1964 50th Year Reunion - The Chilocco Indian School class of 1964 will be celebrating their 50th year reunion at the annual June 2014 Chilocco reunion. For contact and planning purposes, the 1964 Chilocco graduates are requested to contact Charley Johnson, Jr., P.O. Box 531, Bixby, OK 74008 - Telephone No. (918) 366-6158, e-mail address is johnson6158@olp.net or Lucian (Jake) Larney, 524 S. 2nd St., Okemah, OK 74859, telephone No. (405) 401-8881, e-mail jake74868@hotmail.com.

JULY 3-6
68th Annual Pawnee Homecoming. Parade at Noon July 5, 2014. Hawk Chief Run 8am July 5, 2014.

For more events, download a FREE copy of the 2014 Powwow Guide from www.nativeoklahoma.us or look for the link on www.nativetimes.com